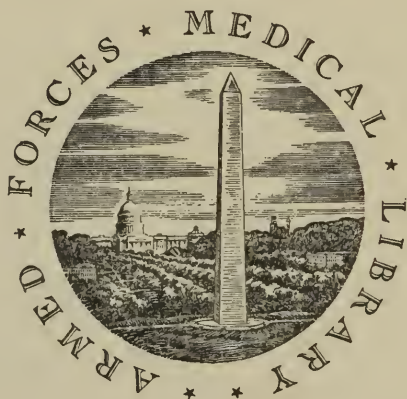




UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



FOUNDED 1836

---

WASHINGTON, D.C.





With Dr. Smith's Compl't

To

Mr. Hoffman



J

THE  
ADDITIONAL NUMBER

TO THE

*Letters of Humanitas,*

TOGETHER WITH

John Hillen's, William Jenkins's & Doctor M'Kenzie's  
Letters—and other Documents,

RELATIVE TO

POLLY ELLIOTT's Case :

*To which are added,*

Mr. Jesse Hollingsworth's Letter—

AND A

R E P L Y

TO THE SAME—BY

JAMES SMITH, *Physician.*

—♦♦♦♦♦—

Baltimore—February 9, 1801.

\* THE Editors of the Federal Gazette having omitted such  
Parts of the following Letters as were disagreeable to them-  
selves—the present Copy may be esteemed more accurate.

J. S.





AN  
ADDITIONAL NUMBER  
TO THE  
Letters of Humanitas, &c.

---

To the CITIZENS of BALTIMORE,

*The following CASE is respectfully submitted:—*

POLLY ELLIOTT, a little girl who came from the Eastern Shore, and was about ten or twelve years old, lived with Henry Purcell, near to the lower end of South-street; but early in September this neighborhood having become sickly, Purcell resolved to leave town and remove his family into the country, which he immediately accomplished, leaving this child friendless and unhoused to shift for itself. She had been unwell for a day or two, and was very sick on the morning Purcell and his family left the city. She was however turned into the streets, and was seen staggering about for some time, until Mr. James Young, grocer, was apprized of her situation and took her into his store-house. Mr. William M'Cormick, stone-cutter, now offered his assistance and made application to Joseph Townsend, health commissioner, for her admission to the hospital. But this was refused, because there was

no certificate produced from a physician, declaring her to be, positively, ill of the yellow fever. Several hours were spent in vain, by this gentleman, in search of a doctor to give the certificate Mr. Townsend required—at length disappointed and unable to procure one, he determined to take the child herself, up to the health office; and see, whether her intreaties, added to his own, could not procure her admission and obtain that relief, without which it was conceived, she must soon perish. Fortunately, on their way thither, they found Dr. Moores, who freely gave her the certificate they had so long been in search of. M'Cormick proceeded with the child, and carried her into Mr. Townsend's house. An order of admission was now signed, without hesitation; and the child was directed to go from thence to the hospital. Having performed a humane part, and conceiving that he had done as much as was his duty, or in his power, Mr. M'Cormick now reasonably expected, that he might leave the child and that she would be provided for. He was however soon undeceived, and ordered to take the child with him again, unless, he (Mr. M'Cormick) would carry her to the hospital, and at his own expence too. Remonstrances were used, but to no purpose; common fellow-feeling could no longer bear with such indifference to the sufferings of a child, in a condition like the present—M'Cormick generously offered to pay one half of the expence, if a stage could be procured to carry her the small distance she had to go; but, “the more than commonly humane” commissioner refused to give *one cent*, for that purpose. Any further intreaty seemed now unnecessary; and at length exasperated at such inhuman conduct, Mr. M'Cormick repeated, that the child was in no other way related to him, than as an orphan; who was destitute and whom he had taken out of the street.—He, also, informed Joseph Townsend, that he should consider him, as the public officer appointed and paid *to provide for* such objects as these; and telling him that he conceived his duty would oblige him, to take care of the child,

made an attempt to leave them ; and quit a contest, so hurtful to his feelings and so barbarous in its nature. *But Joseph Townsend followed him to the door ; and taking the child by the shoulders put her again into the street !* To leave such an orphan in the street, without a shade to shelter, or a human being to protect her—to refuse the petition of a destitute child of misery, was not in the power, of such a man as the friend, who had brought her thus far. In pity he returned to provide for and protect her. In compassion he hush'd her cries and encouraged her, to look up to him for assistance ; when the fatherless could find no father ! Mr. M'Cormick, again, endeavoured to hire a stage, but could not procure one which would carry a sick person. The distance, to the hospital, was nearly a mile ; but the child said she “ would try to walk it, now since he would not leave her ! ” There was no time to be lost ; and no other alternative, than to help her to perform on foot a journey, that had she been well, would have been a laborious one, on an afternoon, as warm as the one, on which, this child walked up to the hospital—Thro' the kind assistance of Mr. Wm. M'Cormick and Mr. William Boyce, who gave her drink, and refreshed her, by resting her at intervals, she was at length enabled to reach an asylum for her afflictions ; *where she died a few days afterwards.*

The circumstances, above related, with respect to Polly Elliott's distressed situation, & Joseph Townsend's conduct on the occasion ; we know to be well founded, and, if called upon, will prove them to be true.

WILLIAM M'CORMICK,  
WILLIAM BOYCE,  
JAMES YOUNG.

Here then is an instance of inhumanity that would shock an Algerine. Here is a man clothed in the plain habit of charity, whose disinterested benevolence and whose kindness and humanity yet hang upon every tongue, and are

published to the world on every occasion. Oh shame, that a man of this stamp can so far impose upon the credulity of any city, that they should select him from among the humane and virtuous, to fill the important office of a health commissioner! And yet are there not some so ignorant of the true character of this man, that they would propose him in the depth of his designs to be the Mayor of our city?—But let him, who could refuse the assistance he was paid to bestow, on an helpless orphan, sick unto death, trembling and exhausted with disease, listen again to her voice! let him who could push the child of misery out of his door, to suffer or perish in the street, again hear her cries! and let him remember, that poverty tho' disregarded, despised & insulted, by the haughty and scornful pride, which rankles in the hidden breast of *some*, can give an admonition which is not beneath the notice of *any*—

“Should I reveal the secrets of my grief,  
 “If soft humanity e'er touch'd your breast;  
 “Your hand would not withhold the kind relief,  
 “And tears of pity would not be repress'd.

“Heaven sends misfortunes, why should we repine,  
 “Tis heaven has brought me to the state you see,  
 “And your condition may be soon like mine,  
 “The child of sorrow and of misery.”

HUMANITAS.

I congratulate my fellow-citizens on the apparent exertions which are making, and are likely to be immediately productive of the most beneficial effects to our city.

A Dispensary for the medical relief of the poor, having met with the approbation of the most respectable citizens, is already in forwardness. This institution seems generally approved of by all, and will, without doubt, be soon established, to mitigate many of the calamities which the poor are subjected to, when sick and unprovided for.

Proposals have also been made to establish a *health company*; and we are told that many citizens now turn their



mind to reflect upon the all-important subject of a better *health establishment*.

A circular letter has likewise been addressed to the physicians of this city (myself excepted\*) “in virtue of a requisition from the mayor, to convene the board of health and to solicit the attendance of the principal physicians of the city, to aid and assist the said board with their council & advice, in investigating the cause of the late fatal disease, and the most probable means of guarding against the same in future—*preparatory to the meeting of the city council*.” In consequence of this invitation, several physicians met on the 14th instant, at Joseph Townsend’s, and have formed themselves into a committee, which I hope, waving every theoretical difference of opinion, and uniting their wisdom and influence, will draw their interesting conclusions from facts alone. The many important facts which have lately presented themselves to us, and which with a little attention, they may yet be able to procure, are sufficient to remove many doubts, and much uncertainty, as well with respect to the origin, as contagiousness of the yellow fever; and may, perhaps, when duly considered, lay the foundation of a system, which shall save our devoted city from the destruction which awaits a longer continuance of our negligence and inactivity. I shall, with pleasure, when called upon, communicate to this committee, a number of facts which I have collected for the purpose of attaining the end they have in view; and I flatter myself that there will not be found *one* of the profession who will withhold from *them* the information he may have gained from

\* P. S. The letter which I saw from the secretary of the board of health to one of the faculty, and copied as above, was dated on the 12th instant, and superscribed circular. From this circumstance I conceived the invitation to the physicians of this city was general, and that as a particular compliment, I was the only one omitted. An Old Man, however, in the gazette of Saturday, very justly complains that this business seems to be transacting in a corner, and that only eight gentlemen were present. If I do not mistake, there were but four physicians (except those who suffered an attack of the fever) who left town during the prevalence of the late epidemic, and I am well informed that three of them constituted a part of the chosen few.

a like painful experience with myself. This committee will, I hope, perceive how defective our health laws have been, and recommend a revision of them to the city council. A fair trial on their part, as well as ours, can do no harm. The truth cannot be injured by soliciting her more intimate acquaintance; nor can the true interests of the city be injured by every provision for such calamities as may again happen. Perhaps, indeed, the ultimatum of human wisdom may be unable to preserve us in perfect safety, but I am well convinced we have much more in our power than is generally supposed. Humanity calls loudly upon our united exertions; let us, then, intreat our councils again to discuss this subject. Let them enquire and be informed of what *has been*, for the better regulation of that which *should be done*, and let us shew them what *has not been*, that they may better provide for that which *must be done*.

For some time past intervening engagements have prevented the observations intended to be dropt from my pen, and many may suppose that the weight of authority (I allude to Joseph Townsend's supporters, some of whom are high in office) has obliged me to shrink from the task I had undertaken; but I would inform my fellow citizens that I have not been negligent, in collecting such information as I hope will benefit them on a future day. That my friends, and others, who have felt themselves interested on this occasion, may no longer suppose that I had dealt in fiction, when describing the sufferings of the distressed, I have stated to them, as above, one of the many humane acts which have characterised our late board of health, and which shall be laid before the public in due time, when it is my intention, that the letters of Humanitas shall be republished in a pamphlet, with some further observations on the subject, and with every necessary proof of all my assertions.

J. SMITH.

Baltimore, 15th Jan. 1801.

From the FEDERAL GAZETTE.

Messrs. Yundt & Brown,

I OBSERVE in your paper of yesterday, a piece over the signature of J. Smith, interspersed with a certificate of William M'Cormick and others, setting forth in colors that are truly frightful, the character of Joseph Townsend, as secretary to the board of health, respecting his conduct towards Polly Elliott. I have long observed the character of Mr. Townsend and another gentleman of the board calumniated by the letters of Humanitas, and had I not been in habits of intimacy with them, and witnessed the arduous task they had to sustain during the late calamity, I should have thought them fit objects of detestation indeed.

Let us return to Polly Elliott's case again. Mr. William M'Cormick and others at the request of J. Smith, say, that early in September they found Polly Elliott *staggering* about sick, and that they went up and down and up and down again, in search of a doctor to get a certificate that she had *actually* the yellow fever; that finally, they came across a doctor and obtained the certificate required, from whence en masse, they went to the secretary, but the inexorable wretch would not do exactly as they, M'Cormick & Co. ordered him, but takes the *sick staggering child by the shoulders, and puts her into the street again*. I would here pause and ask all those who have not the *pleasure* of Mr. Townsend's acquaintance, whether, from the character J. Smith has extracted from the certificate makers, you do not believe him, the said Joseph, to be one of the *veriest wretches that ever disgraced a civilized nation*, yes, and *so you ought*, one and all to say if the statement of his character in yesterday's paper, should stand uncontradicted.

It unfortunately happens, that when some persons (especially those making their first appearance in public) are over solicitous to establish a favourite point, they after asking a thousand unimportant questions, forget the main

one; just so has it happened with the aforesaid J. Smith, for no one can doubt, that in order to dress his additional number to the letters of Humanitas in handsome attire, the certificate makers aforesaid were asked questions out of number; but how he came to let so important a one as that I allude to escape his sagacious mind, is to me unaccountable, to wit: *whether there were no persons present at the time this mighty affair of Polly Elliott happened*, that might possibly state the matter in a different point of view.

Now it hath, unfortunately for Dr. Smith, so happened, *that at the time and place where this cruel, this unchristian treatment of Polly Elliott occurred, I chanced to be*, that is at Mr. Joseph Townsends, early in September, 1800; now that the public mind may be a little relieved respecting this dreadful business of J. Smith, Polly Elliott and the certificate makers above mentioned, I shall simply relate what I saw of it:

Early in September last, as above mentioned, I happened to be in the house of Joseph Townsends, *at which time and place* William M'Cormick and several other persons, to me unknown, *were accompanied* with a stout looking lump of a girl, that to all appearance was from twelve to fourteen years of age, for whose admittance into the hospital an order was issued; *after this* some trifling conversation passed, of which I took little notice, owing, I am sure to the unimportance of it; *after which* I discovered it was difficult for Messrs. M'Cormick & Co. to procure a stage to take a person to the hospital reputed sick; upon which they trudged off together, towards Philpot's bridge, and I think if my memory does not deceive me, (and I do not suspect it does) that Polly Elliott, if that was her name, appeared to me to be as able to walk to the hospital as Dr. Smith, Mr. M'Cormick, or even the secretary to the board of health himself.

After having thus related what *I saw with my own eyes*, it cannot be expected that I should go farther, and say that what M'Cormick & Co. have said about this scuffle between the supplicating sick girl and the stern secreta-



ry, is untrue ; no this I shall not do, but I shall say that I saw no such contest as has been certified to, nor any thing of the kind. On the contrary, I saw nothing but what appeared to me to be humane and proper. I shall here leave this part of the business with the public, to judge whether it is probable that a circumstance so disgusting to the feelings of humanity, could have taken place unobserved by me.

Jan. 20, 1801.

JOHN HILLEN.

P. S. In the concluding part of the piece above alluded to, signed J. Smith, I find a threat of having the calumnies of the letters of Humanitas propagated by means of a pamphlet. Should this determination be persisted in, I have to request that he will, in justice to Mr. Townsend, give this letter a place with them by way of *antidote*. Should he refuse a request so reasonable and so just, he is hereby informed that this letter shall, with all other circumstances respecting this business, be made as extensively public as his.

J. H.

ON a Sunday afternoon early in September last, *I was at Mr. Joseph Townsend's house, in company with Mr. J. Hillen, where I saw, Mr. M'Cormick and one or two other men in company with a well grown girl, which appeared to me of 12 or 14 years of age. I was informed by Mr. Townsend, that they had brought that girl there and a certificate from a doctor, that she had something of the prevailing fever, and that he had given her an order of admission into the hospital. I particularly noticed the girl, and from her countenance should not have supposed her to be the least unwell. I went up stairs in Mr. Townsend's house and looking out of the window, saw Mr. M'Cormick speak to a stage driver, I believe on the subject of carrying the girl to the hospital. The driver refused to take her ; at length they all started off to walk to the hospital*

and in my opinion the girl appeared to be *as able to walk as either of them*, and I conceive that Mr. M'Cornick and the other gentlemen in company with her must have been of the same opinion with me, or they would not have suffered her in that *staggering faint condition* (which she is said to have been in) to carry the *bundle of clothes* which she then had in her hand, and carried with her—and that I saw nothing improper in the conduct of Mr. Townsend towards Polly Elliot [the girl alluded to] or to any other person, but that he showed a disposition to give every necessary assistance as far as lay in his power.

Wm. JENKINS.

Baltimore, Jan. 22, 1801.

---

The following is a just and accurate statement of Mary Elliott's case :

MARY ELLIOTT was received into the hospital on the 7th September, 1800, in consequence of an order for that purpose, granted by Mr. Townsend. She came in during those hours in which I was in the habit of paying my evening visit to that institution : she appeared to me to be an healthy-looking robust girl, [as I then remarked] of the age of 12 or 13 years ; and from the mildness of the symptoms which marked her disease, I was induced to believe it a case of the common *autumnal fever*. I observed I have remarked in my note book. "*that I was doubtful of its being the prevailing epidemic,*" and certain I am that the disease did not appear to have attained that grade which constitutes yellow fever. A *slight* pain in the head and back, accompanied with a more frequent pulse than I have usually met with in the yellow fever, were the chief symptoms of this girl's case. Some blood was drawn from her arm and such medicines administered, as I conceived best adapted to her situation. These were persisted in with every apparent advantage, till the morning of the fifth day after her admission, when (probably in

consequence of having exposed herself for some time out of doors to the night air) a violent chill took place succeeded by an *unexpected* and profuse *hemorrhage from the gums and parts adjacent*, which in the course of a few days put a period to her existence.

Dr. Moores, in giving the certificate requisite for the admission of this girl into the hospital, and which I have now in my possession, has acted with caution, and is not decided in his opinion respecting her case. This certificate is addressed to the committee of health, as follows :

Baltimore, Sept. 7th, 1800.

GENTLEMEN,

I have examined a girl named Mary Elliott—the appears to me to have something of the prevailing epidemic, and is, as I am told, destitute.

DANIEL MOORES, M. D.

*The Committee of Health.\**

I well remember that in the course of the evening on which this girl was admitted into the hospital, Mr. Townsend mentioned to me that he had sent me a patient, whom *he believed*, was not much indisposed, but that as he had received the above certificate from Dr. Moores, he had thought it best to give an order for her reception there, not knowing in what other place she could be so *well accommodated* or taken care of.

I cannot conceive that the *walk* which this girl took to the hospital, could have done her material injury ; for the symptoms of her disease were not apparently increased by it. The oppressive heat of the weather, no doubt did fatigue her at the time ; but numerous instances occurred,

\* It was most proper at that time when the disease was not so prevalent in town to have given the certificate as worded above. For if she had something of the Yellow Fever, she could not be said to have nothing of it, and it was never expected that any symptom of a Yellow Fever could be mistaken for a different fever.

in which, persons labouring under a more aggravated state of fever, walked as far to the hospital as she did, and on a day equally as warm, or perhaps more so, who recovered rapidly after their admission.

COLLIN MACKINZIE,  
Attending physician to the Hospital.

Jan. 26.

From the FEDERAL GAZETTE.

*Messrs. Tundt & Brown.*

HAVING observed the characters of two of our fellow-citizens (Messrs. A. Fonerden and J. Townsend) *calumniated* by J. Smith—as a friend to humanity, and to all that take an active part in acts of benevolence, I wish to give my opinion, which I never should have thought of doing, if their characters had not been so ungenerously attacked. It is not likely that our citizens who were driven from their homes in the time of our late calamity, are capable of knowing sufficiently the credit which is due to these men, in so arduous and dangerous a task as they were engaged in; and as I was an eye witness for the most part of the time, until late in October I cannot easily be mistaken.

I visited the mayor's office and Mr. Townsend's almost every day, as the most proper place to get information of the progress of the sickness, the state of the sick, the number of the dead, and to enquire whether I could be of any use to them; and such things as they asked me to do, I did with cheerfulness. In every instance, I found these men at their posts surrounded with the distressed, giving relief to the poor, assistance to the sick, sending provisions to the barracks, giving admittance to the hospital, and providing for between twenty and thirty children, who were left fatherless and motherless, and who to all human appearance must have perished, if these men had not collected them together, and provided for them.



I have been long acquainted with Messrs. Fonerden and Townsend, but I candidly confess I never knew their indispensable usefulness in society before. I am very sure Dr. S. will gain himself but little credit among the more judicious and thinking part of our citizens, for his ungenerous attack on these men, to whom this city is under so many obligations; and I am truly sorry that he chose no better subject to make himself popular, for which he will get very little thanks from his fellow-citizens. It is poor encouragement for men to act in times of distress, at the risk of their lives, if their characters are to be torn to pieces by young men who are hardly known to be useful. Dr. Smith promised the public, that he would prove by incontestible facts all his charges against Messrs. Fonerden and Townsend, and I am truly surprised that after so much said against them, he has brought but one solitary instance of their inhumanity; and if this case of Miss Mary Elliott was correct, the services which they have rendered the widows and the fatherless, and hundreds of other poor helpless citizens, in their official capacities, were enough to incline a generous people to throw a veil over it forever. The doctor was not an eye witness to Mary Elliott's case, and the certificate which has been published to set the matter in a fair light, by gentlemen of undoubted veracity, proves that his informants were not correct. It is probable that he has views that never were attached to the duties of the health committee. However, it was very unreasonable for him to wish Mr. T. to leave all his other concerns, to convey the girl to the hospital, when the gentleman who brought her was adequate to the task: for my part I should never have thought of any such a thing. If the person who brought her to Mr. T. was not able to hire a stage to carry the girl, he might have hired it at the public's charge, and if he was, it would but have been a small tribute of humanity, without calumniating the character of the Secretary.

Doctor Smith's charge goes farther than to Messrs. T. and T. It indirectly stabs the reputation of the mayor

and city council ; and what is more, to shut the hand of charity in future visitations, if we ever should suffer with the like calamity again. It is well known that the funds of the city were not sufficient to relieve the distressed : charity was solicited & the benevolent sent in liberally from various quarters : but if the donations of the people are to be put into the hands of men, who prodigally will squander them away, as the doctor has represented, who do we suppose will ever lend a hand to relieve us ? I most devoutly pray that we may never need assistance again—but we may rest assured that these things will go abroad, and if credited, would make a very unfavorable impression upon the minds of the people at large.

I would advise the Doctor to be cautious how he meddles with public characters, lest he should destroy his own purposes, and do it to his hurt ; let him remember that the same measure he meets to others, will be measured back to him again. I see that he intends to collect his pieces and publish them in a pamphlet that they may be of future usefulness as well as present ; but I see no use they will be of, unless it is to keep alive the disagreeable feelings they have already occasioned, and which ought to perish with the day. The Doctor ought to recollect, that the gentlemen he so warmly attacks have families, and in wounding the feelings of the parents, he will wound the children also ; and however mild the remarks of his friends may be now, there may be, sooner or later, a pen dipped in gall, for him, and it may be, as ungenerous as his is against J. Townsend and A. Fonerden.

JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH.

From the FEDERAL GAZETTE.

*Messrs. Tundt & Brown,*

To enter into a paper war with such antagonists as John Hillen, currier, esquire, and *member of the city council*, and William Jenkins his brother-in-law, who have opposed the plain and just statement of Polly Elliott's case, as published in your Gazette of the 20th instant, is not my intention. In justification, however, of the benevolent and disinterested characters who witnessed, as well as myself, the circumstances alluded to ; and who, in my presence, and with my approbation and assistance informed doctor Smith of them, in the most cautious and particular manner, that he might make them known to the public *for public good*—I hope you will give a place in your useful paper to the following affidavits :

*Baltimore county, ss.*

ON this 26th of January 1801, came before me William M'Cormick, and being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,

That the statement of Polly Elliott's case, which appeared in the Federal Gazette of the 20th instant, is *just and true* ; and further this deponent saith, that when he carried the aforesaid Polly Elliott up to the health-office, he took her with him up stairs into the parlour of the said Joseph Townsend, where, & in which place, he then was & did sign her order of admission, in his presence & in the presence of Polly Elliott, *and no other person whatever* ; that after signing the order aforesaid, the said Joseph did direct this deponent to take the child home with him again ; unless he would carry her to the hospital : whereupon the said Joseph did usher them out of the parlour above-mentioned, *and taking the said Polly Elliott* [who was in a sick condition] *by the arm, did put her down three or four steps from the head of the stairs, in such a manner as to endan-*

ger her falling ; that having descended the stairs, and being in the passage which led into the street, the aforesaid sick child did stop and refuse to go farther, unless the said Joseph would make the necessary provision to carry her to the hospital ; whereupon the said Joseph *did put his hand to, and in an unfeeling manner did shove* the said Polly Elliott out of his door into the street ; that at this time, when he, this deponent and the aforesaid Polly Elliott, had quit the house of the said Joseph Townsend and stood in the street, *and not before, then* he, this deponent, saw John Hillen and William Jenkins coming across the street from the direction (he thinks) of the Market Space towards them ; That after the said John Hillen had spoke to this deponent, as he passed on the business of his errand to the health-office, he, together with William Jenkins, went into the house, and were soon after followed by Joseph Townsend ; that afterwards he saw no more of John Hillen or Joseph Townsend on that day, but looking up to the windows of the parlor they had before left, he well remembered to have seen William Jenkins looking after them as they went off in the street ; that from thence he, this deponent, *walked* with the said Polly Elliott, to the hospital ; that she did carry with her a small bundle of clothes, which in his estimation, would not have weighed *more than one pound* ; that to refresh the said Polly Elliott, who appeared to be faint and weak, he, this deponent, and others did send one of their company into the tavern of John Miller to procure some drink, part of which was taken by the aforesaid sick child ; and this deponent well remembers that while they stopped for the purpose above mentioned, the said Polly Elliott did support herself on her feet by leaning against the pailing on the way side, and that when she took hold of the cup with both of her hands, they trembled so much (owing to the fever he supposes) that it was with difficulty she drank ; and further this deponent saith not.

WILLIAM M'CORMICK.

Sworn and subscribed to before

OWEN DORSEY.



*Baltimore County, fs.*

ON this 26th day of January, 1801, came before me William Boyce, and being duly sworn on the Holy Evangelists of Almighty God, deposeth and saith,

That he was personally present, and is well acquainted with most of the circumstances respecting Polly Elliott's case, as related in the Federal Gazette, of the 20th instant; that he accompanied William M'Cormick and Polly Elliott to the house of Joseph Townsend, on *Sunday* the day of *September*, when and where, an order was signed for the admision of the said Polly Elliott into the hospital; that he this deponent, did not go up stairs with the said William M'Cormick and Polly Elliott aforesaid; but waited in the street until they would have accomplished the intention of their visit. And further this deponent declarcth, that *he knew of no other person being present* in the house with them, at that time; and this deponent further saith, that when the said William M'Cormick and Polly Elliott did descend the stairs, accompanied by Joseph Townsend, he saw the said Joseph *appearing displeased, put the sick girl out of his door into the street*, and that *after they had all quit the house of Joseph Townsend aforesaid, and stood in the street, and not before*, then he saw John Hillen and William Jenkins coming across the street to them; that straightway they, the said John Hillen and William Jenkins walked into the house, and were soon after followed by Joseph Townsend; but to the *certain knowledge* of this deponent, neither the said John Hillen nor William Jenkins, were present at what passed between William M'Cormick and Joseph Townsend aforesaid, nor were they perceived by this deponent until after the aforesaid Polly Elliott had been put into the street. This deponent further declareth, that after every endeavour had failed to procure a stage, he accompanied William M'Cormick and Polly Elliott, who was *sick and weak, on foot* up to the hospital; and further this deponent saith not.

WILLIAM BOYCE.

*SWORN & subscribed to before*

OWEN DORSEY.

I would now express my astonishment that the two gentlemen before mentioned would ever have given such certificates as have been published to the world and *repeatedly* inserted in your paper, to bias public opinion by the weight of their authority, and by discolored the truth, more effectually blast the characters of men of integrity. These gentlemen have pledged the sanction of their undoubted veracity, to disprove an action they would have the world to believe they were perfectly acquainted with. How far their statement agrees with the truth as above sworn to, the public will no doubt readily perceive, and I hope they will excuse my appearing before them to re-establish that credibility which has ever been unimpeached, before their attempt to destroy it; while they endeavoured at the same time to poison the private character of an industrious mechanic and an honest citizen, thereby to establish on a more firm foundation the tottering popularity of one of their own friends. If the facts as stated by us, were disbelieved by them, did we not promise to give the most positive proof of their accuracy?—Why then did they not call upon the proper authority, and have us brought forward to substantiate our charge, or prove Joseph Townsend to be innocent? No—this would have been confirming the truth, for we have other and equally incontestible proof of the certainty of our already proven assertions. Does Joseph Townsend dare publicly to deny what we have stated? No—for then he would accuse himself. But evading the steps which ought to have been pursued, he has brought in an *official* tool, with William Jenkins, a tanner, to stand before him and the truth, which he is ashamed to oppose, and who seem ready to justify an act of barbarity, to which no history of the savage uncivilized can afford a parallel; and which would have drawn the tear of grief from any other, than the callous hearts which inhabit their own breasts. Yes! these men would employ the *mite* of their intellectual acquirements, and *prostituting* their *shallow productions* would again wish to palm upon the public, a man, who has al-

ready deceived us in the important duties entrusted to him. Yes! John Hillen, can ridicule the distress of others and mock the unsteady steps of the staggering child of misery!—Yes! he can exultingly boast of his habits of intimacy, with a man who has been proved to mal-treat the destitute and devoted victim of an awful disease! Yes, by scoffs and sneers, and a jumbled story of “*what he saw with his own eyes*,” he can insult the feelings of the generous and humane; and vaunting on his public appearance, as the stupid and illiterate author of a contradictory paragraph, wish to perpetuate his inconsistencies, and live in the memory of the citizens of Baltimore, as the conspicuous friend and supporter of the *stern secretary*; and that as a member of the city council, we may expect him to give his vote to *entail upon us* the inexorable Joseph Townsend, again to exercise his cruelties on the faint and weary children of affliction; when the hand of heaven may again pour out his chastisements upon us.

JAMES YOUNG.

January 29, 1801.

From the FEDERAL GAZETTE.

Messrs. Yundt & Brown,

Having observed in your paper of the 26th instant, what is called a just and accurate statement of Mary Elliott's case, by Colin M'Kenzie, you will oblige me and the public, by laying before them the following documents and observations, which will place the business in its proper point of view.

Doctor Smith's compliments to Doctor Moores, and would be glad to know what was the situation of Polly Elliott, when he gave her a certificate to be admitted into the hospital, where she died a few days afterwards.

Baltimore, January 26, 1801.

SIR,

I received your note, requesting me to inform you of the situation of Polly Elliott, when I gave her a certificate

to be admitted into the hospital. The number of patients to whom I gave certificates being considerable, and not having kept a register of their cases or even names, renders it impossible for me at present to recollect the exact situation of all of them. This much I can say, that I am confident that I never gave a certificate to one, unless the symptoms were unequivocally those of the then prevailing epidemic. The quotation which you sent me from Mr. William Jenkins's piece in the Federal Gazette, gives me no uneasiness. The public can judge who of us is the most likely to be mistaken in a medical opinion.

Early in September last, a girl, such as Polly Elliott is described to have been, was brought before me from the lower part of South-street, but I cannot recollect the name of the girl, or the names of the persons who conducted her. The eyes of this girl were red, head ach severe and fever considerable, aggravated as I thought, by the fatigue of walking; not having a doubt in my mind of the nature of her case, I readily gave a certificate, that she was affected with the prevailing fever, and directed it to the committee of health.

DANIEL MOORES, M. D.

*Dr. James Smith.*

*Joseph Townsend,*

I have again taken the liberty to apply to you, as notoriously the proper person to grant me permission to have access to the books of the hospital.

Dr. M'Kenzie yesterday informed me, that he was not at liberty to permit me to see those books; or to make public the *names* of the persons who died in the hospital; but that I might have from him a true statement of their *number*. The same gentleman also informed me that you have the books alluded to *now* in your possession; but that you are determined to conceal them from my view and are sanctioned in this determination by the late board of health.

I would now inform you that Mary Elliott was pronounced, by a physician of known abilities and experi-



ence, to be in an irrecoverable state of the late prevailing fever, before you gave her an order of admission to the hospital, and I am informed it is well known to her friends that she died on Thursday morning, in less than four days from the time of her admission; whereas from Dr. M'Kenzie's statement in yesterday's Gazette, which apparently has been drawn out to screen you, the public are led to believe that she lived at least eight days from the time that you pushed her out of your door.—

You have already denied granting me that information, any citizen has a right to demand of you as their public officer—you may also deny me this request; but I must say that I never yet heard of any other hospital than the one under your direction, where the officers were permitted to keep their proceedings *private*.

The bearer, Dr. Clendinen, waits your answer.

JAMES SMITH.

*Tuesday morning, January 27, 1801.*

Dr. Clendinen's compliments to Dr. Smith, and delivered his letter to Joseph Townsend in his office, which, after my waiting some time, he read—he now turned and was about to leave me, when I asked him whether I should wait his answer; but he paid no attention to my request and very politely would have left me alone. I however followed him to his front door and repeated my question; when he observed to me to “remember that I do not turn thee out of my door, but leave my house to thee,” on which Mr. Townsend went off, up the street, without making any reply whatever, to your request.

*Tuesday, 12 o'clock:*

On my receiving Dr. Clendinen's note, I immediately went up to the mayor's office, where before him, I met with Joseph Townsend and Adam Fonerden, and discussed the right I had as a citizen, to have access to the books of the hospital—It was argued on their part, by Adam Fonerden, to grant me access to their books would

be stupidly to furnish me with materials for further calumnies,\* against themselves. In reply, I observed that my only object was to discover the *truth* and lay it before the public. If their books were just and proper, no calumnies could arise from them; but if their proceedings have been improper and inaccurate, the truth should not, on this account, be concealed from the public, who most unquestionably have a right to ascertain it. It availed me little to declare that I had *proofs* in my possession to contradict the statement given of Mary Elliott's case by Dr. Mackenzie, and which is said to have been *accurately* taken by him from the books in question. The mayor conceived that any citizen had a right to see the books of the hospital, but apologized, that at this time these gentlemen were too much occupied in preparing their accounts to permit my request, but that in a short time they would be laid before the proper authority, (the city council†) and examined by them; that immediately afterwards, every document would be returned to his office, where any citizen might have access to them.

To acquiesce and submit to this decision, most certainly became me best; and I left the mayor's office, without any expectation of being ever afterwards permitted to inspect the books alluded to, which most properly are of such a nature, as to be held not returnable to this office. I have, however, since received a very impolite letter from doctor Mackenzie, in which he gives a final decision to the whole dispute, and after informing me of an error *of the editors* in his statement, where a few *days* were inserted instead of a few *hours*, says, "I have now, sir, to inform you, that the hospital books are in my possession, and I am determined that neither yourself, nor any other person, shall have the liberty to look over them, unless I choose to permit it."

\* *Quere*—Does Mr. Fowerden consider calumny and truth as synonymous terms? perhaps in this instance, the truth is the greater libel.

† John Hillen is a member of the city council, and so is Adam Fowerden.

Leaving this subject, we are now prepared for a few observations on doctor Mackenzie's statement of Mary Elliott's case: and the first, which deserves our notice naturally arises from the description he has given us of this girl, at the time when she was admitted into the hospital—"she appeared to me, says the doctor, to be a healthy looking robust girl, and from the mildness of the symptoms which marked her disease. I was influenced to believe it a case of the *common autumnal fever*." This description I grant, tallies exactly with the famous description of a "stout looking lump of a girl," by a currier; and the Dr. appears to be quite as competent to judge of her situation as another judicious gentleman of the faculty just mentioned, who "*particularly noticed the girl, and from her countenance, should not have supposed her to have been the least unwell.*" The reader will here naturally, compare the *joint description* of these three intelligent & discerning gentlemen, with the above statement, of the same case, by doctor Moores, while *I pause to give scope to your astonishment!*—Superficial indeed must the doctor's observations have been, when he only remarked the healthy external appearance of this girl, whose "*red eyes, severe head ache and considerable fever,*" (at that time the most unequivocal and characteristic symptoms of the *Yellow Fever*) presented themselves to attract his attention. 'Tis a poor subterfuge, and one that any physician would be ashamed of, which doctor Mackenzie has used, to justify his own ignorance of the disease before him, where he places his dependence upon what he thought to be doctor Moores, cautious and undecided opinion respecting the case: it would be injustice, then, to draw a parallel between an experienced physician and one who could not distinguish "a common autumnal fever" from the disease which, by "an unexpected and profuse hemorrhage from the gums and parts adjacent, put a period to the existence of his patient." How adequate, nevertheless, to account for her death, ["probably," says the doctor, "in consequence of having exposed

herself for sometime out of doors to the night air,'] and how well adapted to her situation, were the medicines administered, and which were persisted in with every apparent advantage, 'till the morning of the 5th day after her admission, the public are well able to judge; when from his own statement he acknowledges that he was ignorant of her disease, until a few hours before the termination of the scene !!

But the doctor, after having dropped his statement, which also agrees with Joseph Townsend's opinion, viz. "*that he had sent him a patient to the hospital who was not much indisposed,*" has proceeded, and I may say artfully attempted, to justify a part of the *system* of the late acting committee of health, which I intend to notice on a future occasion, & which every man of feeling must reject with horror—*latitude to that of obliging the SICK to WALK to the hospital.* I would here again refer the reader to doctor Moore's letter, where he expressly observes to me, that this patient's "*fever was aggravated by the fatigue of walking*" the small distance from South street to Gay street. If, then, Polly Elliott's disease was aggravated by walking *two squares*, on a level pavement, where she could be occasionally shaded from the rays of the sun; how much more must she have suffered, by being *obliged to walk a mile*, exposed to his direct rays? and, "in her sick and weak condition," *obliged to ascend the steep hills which intervene*, before she could reach that asylum for her affliction, from which she was never to return! Strange it is, and little did I expect it, that any young man could ever have so far unhumanized his heart, as to sanction with his approbation a proceeding which only the callous friends of the "stern secretary" dare to justify. I shall quote the *whole paragraph* from his address, and leave the public to judge, how successful the doctor has been, in recovering their *walking* victims, and hope that in future, no *such men or measures* will ever be employed to disgrace the humanity of the city of Baltimore—"I cannot conceive," says the doctor, "that the *walk* which this girl took to the hospi-



tal could have done her material injury ; for the symptoms of her disease were not apparently increased by it. The *oppressive heat* of the weather did no doubt, fatigue her at the time: but numerous instances occurred, in which persons labouring under a more aggravated state of fever, *walked* as far to the hospital as she did, and on a day equally as warm, or perhaps more so, who recovered *rapidly* after their admission."

J. SMITH.

*From the FEDERAL GAZETTE.*

*Messrs. Yundt & Brown,*

We observe in your paper of yesterday the company of certificate makers respecting Polly Elliott once more thrust upon the public, to prove what they had said on the 20th inst. to be true. If they will please to recollect, *we did not say their certificate was false*, but we said *we were there at the time*, and saw nothing but what appeared to be humane and proper. They have said a great deal about seeing us coming across the street from towards the market space ; now we must inform this company of certificate makers, that we had not been on the market space that day, but that at the time Mr. M'Cormick, Polly Elliott and Mr. Townsend came out of his, Mr. Townsend's front door, *we were so near* that we are fully persuaded this shoving into the street, spoken so much about, *could not have taken place* unobserved by us.

JOHN HILLEN,  
Wm. JENKINS.

Baltimore, Jan. 30, 1801.

*Mr. JESSE HOLLINGSWORTH,*

SIR,

YOUR public endeavours to suppress, that examination of the conduct of our late board of health, which has been commenced by me, for the benefit of our fellow-

citizens, has compelled me to notice your interference; lest you may have *wrongfully* persuaded any, that I have only written for the base purposes of calumny and abuse. And now, sir, lest you may suppose, that I *also* feel an inclination to *abuse you*; I shall be candid, and confess, that I would have wished to address you with *respect*—for you are an old man. I would have wished to address you with *reverence*—for your hairs are grey, and time has placed his finger upon you. You have been long seen in the ranks; you have been esteemed a friend to humanity; you have been, oftentimes the instrument of public good. But why do you now appear to have changed? Why do you now oppose the nearest interests of your fellow citizens? Why have you *also* lent your name to oppress an individual, and veil an act of inhumanity, from which, every feeling mind must revolt with horror?—Perhaps, you, likewise, are deceived!—If so, your eyes shall be opened, and the tongue of censure hushed in peace.—Or, may be, the fixed prejudices of old age, have steeled your heart, and rivetted your judgment, against the persuasions of truth? If so—you are to be pitied, rather than accused. For, when the limbs are weary, and old age, oppressed with care, bears down every faculty to the earth—the peevishness of man is to be borne with patience; his weakness is not a crime, 'tis the frailty of human nature; and I would lend my hand to assist, rather than injure you.—But, yet, if with a mind convinced, you should still oppose the *truth*; then shall the TRUTH gain proselytes by your opposition. Or if, to have an opportunity, at a time like this, to boast of your *own* humanity, you can “hardly know others to be useful;” then, shall you perceive, that *you* have not monopolized the gratitude of all!!!

I would, here, beg leave to premise to you, that my endeavours were, at first, directed, to accomplish the object of my sincere wishes; without censuring, even where it was most deserved.—But the late report of the joint committee\*, compelled me to change this resolution, and

\* See appendix.

(to lessen the triumph, which has been occasioned by praise, which was never deserved) point out certain *facts* to remove all improper exultation; lest the many glaring faults and shameful neglects, which have been, already, complained of, might operate to the future injury (perhaps destruction) of a city, which has every claim, upon my gratitude and attachment. It is true, I concealed my name under an anonymous signature, and was unknown, even to those in whom I could have confided; but unforeseen circumstances have discovered to you, and to the world; that it was I who censured, and that I had written, what you have been pleased to term, ‘ungenerous calumny,’ against the friends of your bosom. This is a serious charge; and could I, for a moment, suppose your accusation founded in truth, I would humble myself before you, and acknowledge to the public, an error, which I hope, shall never stain the history of my life. But, I must yet believe you are wrong: for *within*, I feel myself justified, and am ready to answer unto all that may be against me. However, to have ever used *one word* of detraction, seems to require an apology; and I must assure you, that it was a task extremely distressing to me (and I shall ever regret the unhappy circumstance, which compelled me) to become the public accuser of men, whose humanity years of trial had before left unimpeached. But, could I close my eyes to avoid all observation? Or, when a witness, to acts of inhumanity and cruel neglects, could I force my senses to acknowledge their propriety? Or, would you have me acquiesce again and again in the usefulness of those, who, I long since *knew*, possessed more the appearance, than reality of benevolent exertion? No! such submission ne’er yet became me; and however unwilling, I may have been, to use declamation and invective against any one; you may believe me; I shall never prostitute my pen, to praise those, I know deserve my censure;—nor shall I, in future, remain a silent spectator, and suffer the poor to be oppressed, and the public imposed upon; by *your* flatterers, in matters, which concern eve-

ry friend to humanity, as nearly as they do you. Dire necessity once obliged me (when, three years since, we bore the scourge of heaven) to submit to those in power, and acquiesce in the general effusions of gratitude, to some, who little deserved it: but, I have not forgot the wretched management, the shameful cowardice and mean abilities of the same secretary; who yet holds the helm, and, as it were, would accomplish every thing to your perfect satisfaction. I then, attended the hospital of distress, disease and death,\* and had such an opportunity, to witness the “indispensable necessity” of this man, that I never wished to witness it again! That opportunity, however, (which you seem to have forgot) furnished me with a clue to the character, who must *now* suffer under the lash of *imperious truth*; until the important office, which he holds, shall be filled, by a person properly qualified to discharge its duties. This I hope will be done, without obliging me to publish to the world, *other facts*, than are now to be mentioned, and which must do more

\* BY THE BOARD OF HEALTH.

Jeremiah Yellott,	} Commissioners of Health.
James Edwards,	
Adam Fonerden,	
Emanuel Kent,	
Joseph Townsend,	
Elias Ellicott,	
John Steele,	
Thomas Tenant,	}
James Beeman,	

It is with pleasure we observe, that the whole of the patients remaining at the Hospital, at the North East end of Fell's Point, were so far recovered, as to be discharged on the 4th instant.

Resolved unanimously, That Doctor Joseph Way, and (during his illness) Doctor James Smith, receive the thanks of this Board, for their diligent attention, as Physicians to the sick, which have been sent to the said Hospital since its institution.

Ordered, That a copy of the foregoing resolution be published in the different newspapers of this city.

Signed, by order of the Board,

JOSEPH TOWNSEND, Clerk.

November 8, 1797.



injury to the feelings of some, than I can yet, allow myself to inflict.

About the last of October, an unfortunate black man, (who had suffered, on the Point, for several days, under the destructive influence of the prevailing fever; and who, in all human probability, had neither a nurse to take care of, nor a physician to attend him!) left his wretched dwelling, and came on foot, without any assistance, to beg me to do something for him: fatigued by walking so far, and exhausted, with the all subduing power of this disease, he layed himself down at my door, in Lemmon-street, as soon as he had reached it. My neighbors, who had just returned from the country, were extremely alarmed, and apprehending much danger from him, insisted on his removal, immediately. I wished to comply with their request, but, could not, on any condition procure a conveyance, to carry him off. I was not, indeed, during the whole of the late sickness, much in the habit of troubling Joseph Townsend for his assistance to the poor.—and at any time, would rather have been at a small expence, than to have had any thing to do with a man, who, on such occasions, seldom behaved with common civility. In this instance, however, I was obliged to call upon him, or let an unfortunate being perish, for want of that assistance, which common humanity could not refuse, and which was not in my power to procure him. I directed my servant boy to walk with him down to the health office; (for I feared that in his weak condition, he might fall on the pavement, and never reach that distance) while I went forward before him, in company with my brother, to inform Mr. Townsend of his situation, and to request him, to make that provision, which in such cases the *law directs*. I found Mr. Townsend at home (the health office) and while I was speaking to him, at his door, on the subject of my errand; the poor man came forward himself, so faint as hardly to be able to keep upon his feet, and added his own solicitations to mine for assistance. But it was refused; and for no

other given reason than because *he could not do any thing* for him. I remonstrated against a refusal, so unjustifiable as this was, and informed Mr. Townsend of the circumstances already mentioned; advising him at the same time, of the danger of permitting a man, in this situation, to remain exposed to the sun; I also gave Mr. Townsend my opinion, in as plain words as I could use, that if he was suffered to walk back to the Point, it would most certainly occasion his death—all would not do—neither to persuade or remonstrate, availed in the least degree: Mr. Townsend would not give him the least assistance; but walked into the house again, and left me to take care of the charge I had in possession, as well as I could.—I now left the health office, and made another attempt to get a stage, to take the unfortunate wretch out of the street; but again refused by the stage-men, I was equally unsuccessful as at first. There was then, no other alternative left me, than to direct the sick man, to make the best of his way home; and get along as well as he could. He *walked* back to the Point, where he died, in about ten hours from the time, he left Mr. Townsend's door.

Here then, Sir (as you of late found too much cause for exultation, on my adducing but one '*solitary* instance of inhumanity') is another piece of your friend's conduct; but little short of the first, in point of criminality; and as I was an eye-witness this time, I hope you will give me leave to suppose, that I was not mistaken. Now, if you can conceive, Mr. Townsend's conduct was humane and proper, on this occasion, as well as in Mary Elliott's case; and can give any other *better* reason for your thinking so, than the services *you have seen* them rendering, to those who stood in need: you may, perhaps, bring me to think with you, that "I do not sufficiently know the credit which is due to him." But unless you do; think not to incline a generous people, to veil such acts of inhumanity as these, and at the same time, cherish their detested author in the bosom of their gratitude! Had you, or any member of the city council, taken a sick man to Joseph's door; you

would, most probably have been praised for your attention; and had seen your requests attended to, with apparent zeal and philanthropy: but when the *poor man* calls, without a friend in power, to urge his claim; then, alas! there is, *neither an ear inclined, nor an heart open, nor a hand ready to assist him!*—Such, it shall be proved to you, is the character of the man, who can push the child of misery out of his door, and would suffer the unprotected victims of disease, to perish in the street!

But, you may perhaps, still call these *two* instances of inhumanity, *solitary*, and may feel an inclination to enlarge your veil to cover both: lest this should be the case, I will adduce you *another*, to show you a little more of Joseph Townsend's attention, when called upon in his official capacity, to relieve the distress of those, who perished without any assistance whatever. The death of WILLIAM WARREN, affords the world *this instance* of his "zeal, in the discharge of his dangerous duties;" and calls, loudly upon us to examine into the "more than common humanity," we have already heard so much about.

When *William* lived, I knew him well; he was an honest man—but poor. The delirium of a raging fever, had hurried him out in the night; to rove unheeded over the shelterless fields, But fruitless, indeed, was every struggle; for, exhausted, he fell to the ground, and was discovered, early in the morning, lying in the meadow of Mr. James Sterling. Mr. Townsend was immediately applied to, to send him some assistance, or to make such provision for him as was necessary: but charitably, alledging the unfortunate man was drunk, he declined taking any notice of the case. Another application, was, however, soon made, by a humane gentleman, who informed Mr. Townsend, in a very particular manner, of the circumstances above related; adding, that the urgency of the case required expedition; for the sun was rising fast, and the heat would soon put an end to his existence,

unless he was removed. Mr. Townsend, notwithstanding all this, could not be prevailed on to give any assistance, whatever; and *poor Warren* was left to expire, like the horses of the field, without a hand to help or a friend to assist him!—He died about eleven o'clock!!!

Now to return to your address.——You have given it as your opinion; “*that I have missed my aim, and chose a subject to write myself into popularity; for which I will get very little thanks from my fellow-citizens.*” In the last of these suppositions, you may indeed, be right; for I have known *some*, who have apostatized from their attachment to me; and have marked the *enemies*, who have risen up against me—I am, however, not disappointed; for I never expected any personal advantage; nor did I ever suppose, that I could have gained any credit among your “judicious and thinking part of the citizens.” But, you do injustice to my judgment, weak as it is; where you suppose my choice led me to prefer (for the purpose just mentioned) the subject I have adopted. ’Tis true, I am yet ignorant, of any other subject, so interesting to us all; as that of a NEW and BETTER HEALTH ESTABLISHMENT: But I must have been, stupidly inattentive, indeed, could I not have perceived, as well as yourself, how many enemies, and how formidable the weight of authority, I had to oppose. You have, then, Sir, on this occasion, done me wrong; for, I do not expect to *acquire fame*, by opposing *you*, nor to *gain friends*, by telling such TRUTHS, as are disagreeable, even to myself.—Should I, therefore, fail, without one advantage arising from all that has been said, any exultation on your part, would be ungenerous in the extreme. But, should I convince the world and you, that of late, we have been much imposed upon; and succeed in *my wish*, to see the city of Baltimore protected, by a *proper Health Establishment*, I hope you will be able to bear the disappointment; nor let your opposition so far prevail, as on this account, to wish it had not been.\* And here I would add, that, altho’

\* When Mr. Fiddingsworth was waited on, by the Reverend Mr. Bond



you and others, may flatter yourselves to be able to suppress me ; I am bold to declare, that tho' neither possessed of stores of wealth or coffers of gold ; in sentiment I remain independent ; and equally unawed as uninfluenced by your power or threats, I have chosen this subject ; because I know the public have been deceived by the captivating exterior of charity and benevolence, and shamefully neglected by those who religiously professed to relieve them ;—the distressed have been abused, and the sick and the poor have been compelled to suffer unnecessarily more than you are yet aware of—These sufferings and these grievances have fallen under my observation—they attracted my attention, and created my present endeavours to

and myself, to advise him of his appointment (by a public meeting of the citizens) to solicit subscriptions, for the purpose of establishing the Dispensary, for the medical relief of the poor in this city. He declined—alleging in excuse, that he had served the public many years on such occasions, and was now too far advanced in life to undertake any thing of this kind. But approving of what had been done, he promised the Institution his support—when called upon, however, by the gentleman who was appointed in his stead, for his subscription, he refused contributing the smallest sum : giving, at the same time, for his reason “ that he saw I had something to do with it.” This is strange philanthropy ! and shews how far, Mr. H. inclines to do me all the hurt he can : and if, his authority has any weight, must impress a very horrid idea of my character, indeed ! Of this, however, I am not afraid ; but am sorry to see an old man, whose mind should be placed “ on things above,” yet, aiming a barbed shaft, at the reputation of one who never wished to injure him. Does Mr. H. suppose, that a contribution of five dollars from him, would put one farthing in my pocket ? If he does, he is very much deceived ; for, I do not expect any other benefit from it, than the satisfaction of seeing the poor provided with medicines, and attended by physicians, when they want, and cannot afford to employ one. I expect, indeed, to attend in my turn, on a part of the poor, but as none of the physicians who will serve, are to receive any pecuniary benefit whatever, gentlemen do wrong to deprive themselves of the pleasure of contributing on our account. I therefore, hope, that Mr. Hollingsworth will, on a little reflection, discover the impropriety of injuring this valuable Institution, and allow himself to comply with his first promise. Mr. Townsend, for a similar reason, has withheld his subscription. But the Institution has sustained no loss on this account, for several gentlemen have already doubled their subscriptions, on being assured he would neither be appointed Secretary nor Treasurer to this establishment.

redress them: you may therefore, oppose me to your utmost, but I am determined to support the *truth*, and defend the cause of injured humanity; tho' thousands of you should rise up against it.

You have also said, "*It is probable I have views that were never attached to the duties of the health committee.*" It is indeed, certain, that I conceived their duty required much more of them, than they ever did; and although they can very well bear to be told of their 'extraordinary exertions;' and to have it said 'that they attended to make provision for the sick and the indigent;' yet when it is shewn, *that they did not*; then it is answered; *they acted according to the law—it was not required of them to leave their houses—the funds of the city were not sufficient,* and a thousand other excuses of the same kind, are made for their not having attended to that which they wished the world to believe had been long since punctually executed. Such apologies as these may do for some, who wish no alteration of late men and measures: but they afford little satisfaction to those who have witnessed the scenes which are past, or to those who dread the calamities which may yet befall us.

In another part of your address you say "my charge goes farther than to calumniate Messieurs Fonerden and Townsend," "*It indirectly slabs the reputation of the mayor and city council;*" "*and what is more, to shut the hand of charity, in future visitations, against us.*" In these assertions, I conceive, Sir, you are nearly as incorrect, as in some others which appear in your letter. I shall, however, examine them separately and dispassionately. And first, as to the stabbing of the reputation of the city council; for this, Sir, you are indebted to your own ingenuity; 'as for my part I should never have thought of any such thing:' nor would I have thought of noticing, such an insinuation, at this time, were it not to express my sentiments, with respect to the health laws; which have been framed by them. I am not, indeed, so servile a flatterer, as to approve of these laws, just because our

city council made them! No; I think them extremely *defective*; nearly as much so, as their administration:— and further, without detracting in the least degree, from the collective merits of our city council, I would give you my opinion, candidly; that I do not expect, ever to see a proper *code of Health Laws*, framed by them. As well might we expect, that the wisest and best constitution, was to be framed by a set of physicians, who were entirely ignorant of the science of politics: or that the most perfect banking system could only be formed by mechanics, who knew nothing about it: Nor until a proper *Health Establishment* shall be formed, and such characters engaged, as selected for their well known talents and information, have turned their minds to reflect on this subject; can we expect to arrive at the truth: or form such laws, as will, most certainly, secure our safety. In vain may our present councils exert every endeavour, in their power, to protect us from the invasion of disease; while depending upon a promiscuous assembly of physicians, they build their system upon the mere opinions, which, in a hasty consultation have been advanced and adopted. It is impossible, and one moment's reflection might convince any one, that no set of men, however properly qualified, could, in so short a time, be competent to advise every measure which ought to be taken, far less to instruct our councils, and comply with the request which has been made of them; and yet, no other, more probable measure than this, have our councils ever adopted to ascertain, how nearly right, or how far wrong, have been all their deliberations on this subject. Physicians, themselves, yet, differ on some of the most important questions relative to pestilential diseases; and the reason is obvious. Our observations are necessarily too limited; and influenced by prejudice, like other men, we want a sufficient concurrence of testimony to establish this opinion or that: and until mankind, lay aside some of their fatal prejudices; and encourage an investigation of *this subject*, with the same liberality, which has influenced them, in many of their *meaner* researches; we may

expect to remain in the same state of ignorance and indecision, which now paralyzes every exertion. Until a change like this takes place, in vain shall our councils (still wavering between systems, necessarily in opposition) endeavour to embrace every theory that may be proposed; but guided by the wild current of popular opinion, without adopting this system or that, satisfy themselves with a narrow policy and ineffectual measures, until our city falls a sacrifice to their simplicity and delusion. Yet great as these defects are in our health laws, there is another which, at this time, claims more of my attention. It is *their* defect, and to our shame be it spoken, that *the sick* may be provided for; or *they may be left to perish in the fields, or in the streets*—and all in so *legal* a manner that the officer who attends to; or he who neglects his duty, are in like manner entitled to an equal share of our praise and approbation.

As to your next insinuation, that I have wished “*to subvert the reputation of the mayor*;” I think I may, with safety, reply, that it is wholly founded in your own suggestions. Perhaps you are more interested in this charge against me, than the public are aware of: and if there has been any censure thrown out against the mayor, it will appear to rest more on your side than with me. For my part, I have ever respected this gentleman, and have, always, conceived the highest opinion of his goodness, integrity and benevolence; and although, I have said that “*I would be glad he was more active and more resolute; less easy, and less satisfied with every thing*.” I have neither detracted from his sincerity, philanthropy, or public spirit. Now, as far as relates to you, it is quite different, and were I in his place, I should feel myself much insulted (and every Baltimorean must) by your suggesting a competition with such a character, as Joseph Townsend; whom it is well known to him and many others, *you wished to see elected Mayor* of this city.

I would now direct your attention, to the correspondence of our late committee of health with that of Philadelphia; \*to  
*See appendix.*



shew you that there are other hands which *'shut out charity,'* more to blame than mine. This correspondence originated with those kind and generous citizens, who, sympathizing with us on account of our affliction, under an awful visitation of sickness, appointed committees, in every ward and district of their city, to solicit donations for our relief. A committee of correspondence was also appointed by them, on the 17th of September; and directed to write to us and their fellow citizens, in Norfolk and Providence, who were also afflicted with the same disease, which was, at that time desolating our city. This committee wrote to us, in the most friendly and consolatory manner, and informed us of their benevolent intentions "to apportion the sum, that might be raised, as nearly as they could, to the circumstances of each of us." On this account, our board of health were requested to state to them, generally, our situation at that time; and with the greatest propriety, desired to be informed "whether money, provisions, or clothing, would be most useful to us." If now, you will cast your eye to the appendix, which accompanies this letter, and take an impartial view of Joseph Townsend and Adam Fonerden, in their corresponding and official capacity; you may, perhaps, discover that to be true, which I have already asserted, viz. *'That they are both ignorant and illiberal:'* and in their reply, find a better reason, than my calumnies, *why the hand of charity should be shut against us*. On this interesting occasion, you will perceive, that the first acknowledgment of these gentlemen, to our generous friends was to put them in mind, that *'their favour was without date,'* and then proceeding to business, they observe, *'that our expences had been considerable;'* and very contrary, indeed, to an assertion which has unluckily appeared in your address; they immediately inform the Philadelphians, that *'our funds had been fully adequate to the demands made upon them.'* This reply, which was very *short*, does not go much farther; but seeming to doubt the sincerity of their intentions, says, *'If relief*



*should be afforded, BANK NOTES (your friend Joseph likes to handle these) are the most ready conveyance.'*

As a citizen of Baltimore, I must confess to you, I felt myself ashamed and chagrined, to see so much low cunning, so little liberality, and such a want of fellow feeling as was here displayed to the world, on an occasion like this; and '*we may rest assured that these things have gone abroad, and if credited, must make a very unfavourable impression upon the minds of the people at large;*'\* yes! this is true, and unless contradicted must characterise our fellow citizens, as a set of crafty speculators, who could receive the charitable donations of the humane and liberal: and, in the day of our necessity, pocket their money as our natural right, without thanks, or even the shadow of grateful acknowledgment.

In the next communication, between these two cities, we see our commissioners, instead of acknowledging the gratitude which filled our breasts; engaged in an epistolary controversy, with our generous benefactors, and which, as usual, on our part favoured so little of common civility; as to induce them '*to believe that we felt unwilling to accept of any thing from them,*' and '*which did very much impede the progress of all their collections.*'† From Mr. Coates' letter of October 6 you will perceive, that he expected to have sent us 7000 dollars: whereas, for the reasons above stated, he only sent forward 3000; so that our suffering poor, by the improper conduct of Joseph Townsend and Adam Fonerden, sustained, in the first instance, a loss of 4000 dollars, which would have went very far, if properly made use of, towards relieving many of their wants and distresses. The additional sum, however, of 2000 dollars, was afterwards forwarded to us; and which although received by our health committee appears never to have been acknowledged in any terms, critical or civil; and it is plainly to be seen, that this shameful neglect has

\* See Mr. Hollingsworth's letter.

† See appendix—Philadelphia correspondence.

been felt by the Philadelphians, who (at a meeting of the contributors, to the fund collected for our relief,) after having read a report from *their committee* of correspondence, *unanimously resolved*; That they approved of their conduct in the transaction of the business entrusted to them; and although “*it was well known that the funds of this city were not sufficient to relieve the distressed,\**” (I hope you will not doubt your own authority) we find them refusing to forward us the remainder of the money, amounting to 2050 dollars and 46 cents, which had been collected expressly for this purpose, and distributing the same among several different societies, which were not originally intended to have been endowed with one farthing of it. Very different, indeed, on a similar occasion, was the conduct of the committee appointed in behalf of the corporation of Norfolk, the whole of whose correspondence I have inserted in the appendix; that you and our fellow citizens may perceive, how great is the contrast between men of liberal sentiments, sincerity and fellow feeling; and such as destitute of all these—and to their ignorance, cunning, and to their cunning deceit, and cruel inhumanity. For this is the true character of those among us, who, bearing the sacred investments of public charity, have refused to extend the arm of relief to the sick and the distressed; while at the same time, they shut the door against the friends of ‘the friendless, the stranger and the poor.’

I have now, Mr. Hollingsworth, spent much more time than I intended, when I proffered a reply to your address; on this occasion, you may perhaps discover some improprieties which you will censure; for in some places I have overstepped the barriers I had at first set myself, on account of your age and respectability. This indeed, would not have been the case, had you given me any reason to expect a dispassionate examination of the motives which urged me to the severity you complained of—I would, however, apologize to you for that seeming forwardness, and

F

\* See Mr. Hollingsworth's letter—page 16.

want of respect, which in myself I would otherwise condemn.—Pride and folly, variously disguised, are our inseparable companions; and in my view, become contemptible, only as they assume the semblance of wisdom and humility. To cast a light eye, therefore, upon little faults, and to overlook the weaknesses of others; has been always a favourite maxim; and becomes us as men and as christians. But when I see the vanity of despicable ambition clothed in the plain and humble garb of meekness and religious piety—when I see unrelenting cruelty disguised in the habits of charity and benevolence—when I see barbarity, presumptive ignorance, and hypocrisy, concealed under the exterior of humanity, prudence, zeal and christian resignation—my soul rises with indignation at the horrible deception; and language falls far short, of what I feel. On this account, have impositions like these, and your inclination to veil them, that you might accuse me, obliged me to be harsh; and I may be harsher still. If therefore, you would have me “avoid wounding the feelings of parents, that I may not wound the children also;” (and I sincerely wish to avoid unnecessary censures) lay aside the venom of “GALL,” (which you have promised, but which ill becomes your silvered years) and come to me; you shall then be satisfied, that I have neither dealt ‘ungenerously,’ nor unjustly, towards those I have accused. You also, may then, perhaps, lend your aid; and, with me, wish our councils to change a system which has been fraught with so much evil, to the poor and to the helpless—such is my *object*, and *great is the necessity* thereof. Let us, then, *unite* our endeavours, and *exert* every power to save our devoted city, from calamities, which, yet, threaten our destruction.

*I remain for the present,*

*One who is little known to you—*

*And if you would be respected,  
act as becomes you.*

JAMES SMITH.

Baltimore, Feb. 19, 1801.

The following TABLE, taken from the Books of the Baltimore Alms House, (which are at all times open, for the inspection of any citizen) must be acceptable to many of the inhabitants of this city and county: Inasmuch as it shews at one view, how many of the poor have been provided for by this Institution, in any given month of the last year, and how many men, women and children were remaining to enjoy its benefits, on the first day of January, 1801.

# BALTIMORE ALMS HOUSE POOR LIST, FOR 1800.

ADMISSION.				DISCHARGE.			
Remaining in the house,	Men	Women	Children	Men	Women	Child.	Total
January 1.	44	52	17	12	9	1	22
January	15	11	3	8	5		13
February	9	5	1	20	14	6	40
March	8	8	2	11	6	1	18
April	9	8	4	12	9	8	29
May	16	11	2	6	10	2	18
June	10	16	2	13	11	4	28
July	16	7	4	7	7	2	16
August	5	8	4	3		2	5
September	2	6	2	10	7	2	19
October	12	10	4	9	11	2	22
November	15	13	1	5	5	3	13
December	20	13	2	116	94	33	243
	181	168	48				
	116	94	33				
Remaining in the house, Jan. 1, 1801.	65	74	15				

JAMES SMITH,  
Attending Physician.  
W. H. CLENDINEN, Apoth.

The following *Obituary*, for the year 1800, is taken from the Books of the Baltimore  
 Alms House.

<i>DATE of the DEATH.</i>	<i>NAMES of the PERSONS.</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Wom.</i>	<i>Child.</i>	<i>How long under the care of the Institution.</i>	<i>Cause of the Death.</i>
January	5 Catharine Madegan		1		7 weeks	Dropsy
	16 William Hutton	1			same day	Unknown
	27 Patrick Callahan	1			5 weeks	Consumption
February	28 Jane Jones		1		13 days	Syphilis
	1 John Staunton	1			10 weeks	Consumption
	4 James Flakerty	1			1 day	Fracture
	22 Negro Jane		1		6 weeks	Consumption
	25 Catharine Gibbs		1		7 days	Consumption
March	6 Betty Hughes		1		3 years	Scrophula
	9 Benj. Richardson		1		same day	Unknown
	20 Mrs. Hart's child			1		Colera infantum
	24 Eleanor Tobit		1		10 days	Typhus fever
	John Cunningham	1			many years	Pleurisy
	John Stewart	1			10 days	Dropsy



# Obituary continued.

<i>DATE of the DEATH.</i>	<i>NAMES of the PERSONS.</i>	<i>Men</i>	<i>Women</i>	<i>Child.</i>	<i>How long under the care of the Institution.</i>	<i>Cause of the Death.</i>
April	25 Peggy Daily		1		16 days	Lock jaw
	8 Mary Everet		1		21 days	Pleurisy
May	1 John Mahony	1			15 days	Sore leg
	2 Catharine Stiffon		1		23 days	Dropsy
	5 Yellow Beck		1		18 months	Mania
	10 John Barkly	1			2 days	Pleurisy
	14 Crazy Betty's child			1	7 months	Colera infantum
	30 Barbary Connelly		1		2 months	Cancer in utero
June	1 Rose Farral		1		2 months	Old age
	15 Mary Clark		1		45 days	Jaundice
	16 Fanny Etherton		1		same day	Sore leg
	22 Ann Stevens		1		10 days	Mortification
July	29 John Supp				15 days	Dropsy
	2 John McMechen	1			4 days	Billious fever
	7 Michael Fury	1			18 months	Sore leg

# Obituary continued.

DATE of the DEATH.	NAMES of the PERSONS.	Men	Women	Child.	How long under the care of the Institution.	Cause of the Death.
20	Negro Figrico	1			39 days	Scrophula
	A young Infant			1		Colera
23	William Wood	1			4 months	Sore legs
29	A Negro child			1	6 months	Colera
30	Eleanor Crudy		1		4 months	Droopy
	Man, name un- known, of decent appearance, found in a state of infen- sibility, near to Mr. O' Donnel's Gate.	1			same day	Yellow fever
August 1	Hugh Donahue	1			5 days	Jaundice
2	Sarah Thompton		1		6 days	Yellow fever
	John Shea	1			2 months	Sore leg

# Obituary continued.

DATE of the DEATH.	NAMES of the PERSONS.	Men	Women	Child.	How long under the care of the Infirmary.	Cause of the Death.
5	George Williams	1			6 days	Yellow fever
8	M. Shadows		1		same day	Yellow fever
12	Fanny Gordon		1		10 days	Jaundice & worms
31	M. Shadows' child			1	23 days	Colera
3	Thomas Beale	1			2 months	Sore leg
20	Hugh Ballantine	1			2 months	Diarrhea
25	Polly —				4 days	Yellow fever
30	Crazy Betty					Mania
	Charles Fell	1			same day	Unknown
19	Sally Hopkins				3 months	Dropsy
	Betty Lucus		1		13 days	Diarrhea
26	Mary Gray		1		14 days	Syphilis
	None					

November

December

✧ It must afford a pleasing reflection, as well as contribute an useful lesson, towards removing an erroneous opinion, respecting the contagiousness of the yellow fever; to observe that there was no case of the late prevailing fever contracted in the Alms House, during the sickly season; although five persons died of that disease in the house, and two others were removed from it to the hospital, labouring under a violent degree of it. There was, indeed, an order of the trustees, to prevent the admission of any person affected with the late fever, or any contagious disease; but the abovementioned cases were not suspected at the time of admission; although they were afterwards sufficiently characterized to leave no doubt respecting their nature.

J. S.

---

✧ THE Public will be furnished with a copy of the  
*Letters of Humanitas,*  
*and the plan of a new Board of Health, in due time.*

# Appendix.

---

BALTIMORE, November 12, 1800.

The City Council commenced a special meeting on the 5th instant, and ended their sittings last evening. The following communication from the Mayor was laid before that body, and referred to a joint committee of both branches, who made the subjoined report.

*Gentlemen of the City Council,*

I HAVE convened you, as soon as circumstances would permit, to lay before you a general state of the city, and the measures pursued during the calamity we have lately experienced; leaving to some future period, a more minute detail of the rise and progress of that destructive fever, which has carried off so many of our citizens, and for a time almost depopulated a great part of Baltimore.

Be the origin of this disorder what it may, it became very mortal at Fells's Point about the middle of August, and excited a general alarm amongst the inhabitants, inasmuch as to induce most of those who had the means of providing retreats in the country, to remove from that part of the city, and the merchants generally to suspend all intercourse therewith, which at once put a stop to the employment of the mechanics and laborers, and left all those who had not other resources, exposed to the contagion, and without the means of procuring the necessaries of life. Humanity, therefore, required that public measures should be taken for their safety and support: accordingly a camp was formed north of the hospital, and nearly sixty huts or buildings of plank erected, where the poor from the part of the city most affected were invited, and provisions distributed to them; and also measures taken to render assistance to such indigent persons as could not leave their own homes.

At first the public support was confined to the poor of Fells's Point, that being the only quarter which then required it; but unfortunately the fever began to extend to other parts of the city, and before the middle of September, had made such progress to the west of Jones's falls, that the inhabitants fled from thence also; and the same cause which affected the poor at the Point, operated on those in other parts of the city, and made it necessary to provide for them also—I therefore went into the different wards, and prevailed upon such gentlemen in each, as would undertake the task, (and in whom I could confide,) to go through their respective wards, and find out such objects as required public support, and requested the commissioners of health to superintend the distribution of provisions to those

E.



people, through the committee formed from the different wards, by which means from two to three thousand souls have been supported in the camp, and in different parts of the city; many of whom would, most probably, have actually suffered for want of the common necessities of life, if not thus supplied—and although the return of business will give employment to numbers, and thereby take them from the poor list, yet there will remain but too many, who, from the loss of parents, or usual support, will require public aid through the winter, and it is principally on their account I have convened you at this time.

The board of health have had an arduous task through this afflictive scene; and to them the city of Baltimore is greatly indebted for their extraordinary exertions, especially to Mr. Adam Fonderden, and Mr. Joseph Townsend, who at the hazard of their lives remained at their post, and attended to make provision for the sick and the indigent, when deserted by most of their neighbours.

Finding such numbers had fled from the city, and so much property left exposed to plunder, or what was more alarming, to fires, I deemed it necessary to strengthen the watch, both at the Point and in the town, which will increase the expence of that institution about 784 dollars, which I trust will be approved of, and that sum considered as money well laid out. Whether it was owing to this circumstance that no robberies or fires took place during the sickness, I cannot pretend to say; but it must afford great satisfaction that the fact was so.

Being apprehensive that the dread of coming to the market-houses, during the sickness, would prevent a supply of provisions, I thought it best to suspend the operation of the market law, and permit the country people to sell any where they chose, and hope the exigency of the cause will justify the measure—I however, intend to give notice, that the law will be strictly enforced, after some given period.

The temporary stalls and benches at the centre market, are by law to be annually sold by public auction, and the last year expired on the sixteenth of October, but the health of the city at that time would not admit a sale; I therefore postponed it, and now submit it to the council, whether it would not be better, and give more satisfaction, to fix a reasonable rent on each, and let them out in the same manner that the butchers stalls are.

The hospital was commenced on an extensive plan, about one third of which has been completed, and has cost the city nearly three thousand dollars, exclusive of the grant from the general assembly; it afforded accommodation, during our late calamity, for one hundred and thirty persons at a time, that could not have been provided for without such a building. It would be very desirable to enlarge the present house if we had the means, but unless the legislature will give us further aid, it will not be practicable to undertake it. As

they are now in session, would it not be advisable to make application to them for that purpose, and also to renew our application for a law, to enable us to water the city at least from the neighbouring springs, if not from the falls.

JAMES CALHOUN.

November 5th, 1800.

*The joint committee of both branches of the City Council, to whom was referred the mayor's communication of the 5th instant, beg leave to report,*

THAT the conduct of the mayor during the late afflictive season of sickness, appears to your committee to have been suggested and directed by the greatest prudence, by the vigilance of strict attention, and by a proper feeling for human sufferings.

That the measures which he adopted for the alleviation of so great a calamity, were well calculated to attain the end; and that he is entitled to receive from his fellow-citizens the just retribution of a well-earned approbation.

Your committee further report, that the board of health, during this time of trial and distress, were zealously active in the discharge of their dangerous duties, and rendered great, and (as your committee believe) in many instances, efficient assistance: But your committee would be wanting to themselves, to the city council, and to their constituents, were they not particularly to represent the usefulness and unwearied diligence of Adam Fonerden and Joseph Townsend, two of the members of that board, in this service of more than common humanity. To the blessings of those who were ready to perish, will be added the praises of all those who shall know their care of the fatherless and the widow, and of those who had none to help them, and finally, that reward which the world cannot give!

On the other subjects of the mayor's communication, your committee beg leave to report by bill.

NICHOLAS ROGERS,  
WILLIAM MAC CREERY,  
Z. HOLLINGSWORTH,  
JOHN STRICKER.

Baltimore, November 10, 1800.

From the FEDERAL GAZETTE.

#### COMMUNICATION.

THE ostensible author of Humanitas being now detected and brought forward to public view, in the person of Dr. Smith, some remarks on his abusive Philippics will appear in due time.

Saturday, Dec. 20, 1800.

+

---

FROM THE FEDERAL GAZETTE.

---

AN ANSWER TO THE FOREGOING.

THE *modest member of a late joint committee* "being now detected and brought forward to public view in the person of " Mr. A. Fonerden, "some remarks" *on self praise*, "will appear in due time."

"As love of pleasure into pain betrays,  
"So most grow infamous thro' love of praise."

Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1800.

---

FROM THE FEDERAL GAZETTE

---

*Messrs. Yundt & Brown,*

Please to insert the following letter from the *member* of the joint committee of the City Council who drew up the report on the Mayor's communication.

A. FONERDEN.

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 1800.

---

Baltimore, Dec. 23, 1800.

SIR,

I HAVE observed with concern an insinuation in the public news papers that you as one of the Committee appointed on the Mayor's late communication, acted the indelicate part of preparing, or assisting to prepare a Report, in which your own conduct is mentioned in terms expressive of high commendation. It is but justice to you to declare, that this insinuation is wholly unfounded and that I have the best reasons to believe and know, that you were in no way privy to the contents of that report until it appeared before the City Council.

I am with respect & esteem,  
Your obed't. serv't.

ZEB. HOLLINGSWORTH.

Mr. A. Fonerden.

---

*Register's Office, Dec. 26. 1800.*

The following extract is taken from the records of the corporation of the city of Baltimore, to wit.

*City of Baltimore, Nov. 6, 1800.*

The members of the second branch having met agreeably to adjournment, present John Merryman, president, Nicholas Rogers, Wm. M'Creery, Henry Stouffer, Edward Johnson Wm. C. Goldsmith, Job Smith.

*Resolved*, That Nicholas Rogers and Wm. M'Creery be appointed to join such members as may be nominated by the first

branch in a joint committee from both branches on the mayor's communication.

---

BY THE SECOND BRANCH.

*Gentlemen of the first branch,*

We have appointed Nicholas Rogers and William M'Creery to join such members as may be nominated by you as a joint committee from both branches, to take into consideration the mayor's communication and report thereon.

By order,

R. H. MOALE, Clerk.

November 6, 1800.

---

*To which the first branch returned the following answer :*

BY THE FIRST BRANCH.

*Gentlemen of the second branch,*

We have appointed Adam Fonerden, Zebulon Hollingsworth and John Stricker, to join the members nominated by your branch, in a joint committee from both branches, to take into consideration the mayor's communication, and report thereon.

By order.

THOMAS KELL, Clerk.

November 6, 1800.

In testimony that the foregoing is a true copy from the journals of the first and second branches of the city council, filed in my office. I have hereto set my hand this 26th day of Dec. 1800.

R. H. MOALE,

*Register of the city of Baltimore.*

---

From the foregoing Extract, it must appear evident and obtained the belief of every one that Mr. Adam Fonerden was the "modest member of a late joint committee," as was insinuated a few days since. It is certain, that Mr. Fonerden has proved, by incontestible evidence, that he was not the member who "prepared or assisted to prepare the report," as above stated : and further, it is evident, that although 'one of the committee, we do not perceive his signature affixed to it. His *modesty*, therefore, we may reasonably presume, was sufficient to point out the impropriety of his appearing, publicly, as a member of this committee; although, most certainly, it did not oblige him to refuse serving as such when nominated. It is hoped that gentlemen, in future, will be less evasive and more pointed in their certificates, so as not to leave the public mind in suspense—for the TRUTH shall be known, as far as lies in the power of "the officious author of

HUMANITAS."

December 29th, 1800.

# PHILADELPHIA CORRESPONDENCE.

*Philadelphia, Sept. 20, 1800.*

AT a meeting of the committee appointed to correspond with Baltimore, Norfolk and Providence, on the subject of the sickness prevailing in those places, the following address to the inhabitants of the city and district of Philadelphia was agreed to.—viz.

FELLOW CITIZENS,

YOU are called upon to express your sympathy with our afflicted and distressed fellow citizens in Baltimore, Norfolk and Providence, by contributions to their relief.

We need not describe the nature and extent of their sufferings by the ravages of a pestilential disease.—We have felt them.

In performing this christian duty we do but pay a debt of gratitude.

Let us not forget that the hearts of our sister states, were liberally opened to us in the day of our calamity, and that hundreds of the poor citizens of Philadelphia, and its districts probably owe the preservation of their lives to their bounty.—

“DRAW out thy soul to the hungry and satisfy the afflicted soul, then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noon day.”

“WHOSO hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth his bowels of compassion from him; how dwelleth the love of God in him.”

(Signed)

SAMUEL COATES.

Chairman of the Committee.

ROBERT RALSTON, Sect’y.

Baltimore, 9th month 22d, 1800.  
Board of Health.

The following communication was yesterday received by the Board of Health:

“The citizens of Philadelphia, and the districts thereof, sympathize with their fellow citizens in Baltimore, and at Fell’s Point, on account of the afflicting and awful visitation of sickness which is prevailing with so much violence among them; and impressed as they are, with a sense of your kindness and generosity to the people of our city, on a similar occasion, they have appointed committees from the several wards and districts of Philadelphia, to solicit donations for the relief of your suffering poor, at this season.



" This information we consider it our duty to give you, and when the amount of our subscriptions is known, we intend to address you again.

" In the mean time, as a part of our collection is intended for Norfolk and Providence, we shall find it necessary to apportion the sum that is raised as near as we can to the circumstances of each of those cities; for which reason you will please to state to us generally your present situation, and in particular, we desire you to mention, whether money, provisions or cloathing will be most useful, as it is our wish to accommodate our supplies accordingly.

" That the Almighty Preserver of men, may speedily remove from you the present scourge, and restore your different citizens to a state of good health, is the ardent desire of your sincere friends, the inhabitants of Philadelphia and all its dependencies.

(Signed)

SAMUEL COATES, Chairman.  
to the committee of correspondence.  
*To the Board of Health in Baltimore.*

#### REPLY.

We acknowledge the receipt of your favor without date, communicating the proceedings of your citizens, respecting the suffering poor with us, in this time of calamity and distress.

Our expences hitherto on the occasion, have been considerable, yet our funds have been fully adequate to the demands made upon them—how far this may be the case at the end of the present awful visitation, is unknown to us, or what the amount of the expences may be at that period.

If relief should be afforded from the distance that you are—Bank notes are the most ready conveyance, for through the blessing of a kind *Providence*, provisions, &c. are articles in which our country abounds.

On behalf of the board of health,  
JOSEPH TOWNSEND,  
Secretary.

*To the Committee of Correspondence, Philadelphia,*

PHILADELPHIA, October 6.

*To the Committee of Health in Baltimore.*

WE received your letter of the 22d ultimo, in answer to ours which you observe is without date.

The collection made in this city, and the liberties to relieve Baltimore, was founded upon a very affecting appeal of your committee to our own citizens, dated the 9th mo 10th; 1800, in which you say the fever rages at Fell's Point, and the poor thereof have nothing to depend on for support but your city funds, and you call upon your inhabitants at large to give their assistance.

To us you say, that your country abounds in provisions, &c. and that your funds have been fully adequate to all the demands that have been made upon them to the 26th of September; but how far this may be the case at the end of this awful visitation, you do not know.—That indeed is very uncertain; but from sorrowful experience of such a situation as yours, we know that the expence attending it exceeded by far all our calculations; and fearing it might also exceed yours, we were anxious to give you an evidence of good will, by affording you, if it might be acceptable, a little assistance. We accordingly put forward a subscription, and had reason to expect we should have sent you Seven Thousand Dollars; but the receipt of your letter has very much impeded the progress of all our collections; many of our citizens believing from the tenor of it, that you felt unwilling to accept of any thing from us: We however have sent you in their behalf *three thousand* dollars for the present, and hope it will be useful, and in a few days more, we expect to send you another remittance.

We are your real Friends,

*In behalf of the Committee of Correspondence.*

SAMUEL COATS, Chairman.

P. S. The remittance is in the draft enclosed of Jonathan Smith, Cashier of the Bank of Pennsylvania, on the Cashier of the Bank of Baltimore.

---

Baltimore, October, 13, 1800.

*To the Committee of Correspondence with Baltimore, Norfolk and Providence.*

YOUR favor of the 6th instant we have received, covering Jonathan Smith's draft on the Bank of Baltimore for three thousand dollars, being a donation of your citizens, for the relief of the poor and distressed of this city, which was acceptable, and we trust it will be laid out for the purpose for which it was intended.

You observe that the receipt of the letter from the Board of Health, very much impeded the progress of all your collections, from a belief that they were unwilling to accept any thing from you. This we apprehend is not a fair construction of the plain and obvious meaning of it, which was to inform you, that the sickness and circumstance attending it, had already occasioned a very considerable expence, but what the amount of it might be in the conclusion, was altogether uncertain—This was in answer to your request, of being informed generally of our situation.

Whether it would have been more pleasing to some, to have represented our situation more distressing and pitiable, was with them no consideration, nor what they had in view. They stated a fact, and left it with you to afford our citizens any, or what assistance you might think proper.—You mentioned your intention to divide your donations between three places, they, therefore, carefully

guarded against every expression that might be construed, as though they wanted to engross an over proportion to themselves.

Thus far we have thought it might be necessary to explain, with a view to remove any misrepresentation that might have taken place on the occasion, not wishing that the effort might destroy that good understanding that ought to subsist between the two cities.

We are your friends,  
 ADAM FONERDAN, }  
 JOSEPH TOWNSEND, } Commissioners of Health.

P. S. The whole of the others, who constitute the Board of Health, having for some time past left the city.

PHILADELPHIA, November 28.

[The following is a copy of the last letter of the committee of correspondence of this city, to the committee of health in Baltimore—to which no answer is yet received.]

PHILADELPHIA, 24th October, 1800.

To the Committee of Health in Baltimore.

WE received your letter of the 13th instant, acknowledging the receipt of our remittance to you of three thousand dollars.—Believing that our collections are completed, we feel a great pleasure in being now able to remit you two thousand dollars more from our citizens for the use of the poor of Baltimore and Fells's Point.

It appears that you apprehend we have put a wrong construction on the plain and obvious meaning of your letter, in supposing that the inhabitants of Baltimore were unwilling to receive any thing from the city; if we have, we did not intend it, neither are we yet able to discover it.

Admitting, however, the inference to have been improperly drawn, we can assure you, that it did not arise from any misrepresentation made by individuals, respecting your situation, but solely, from your own communications.

On recurring to your own publications, to your own citizens, and to our letters, and your answers, we cannot see that you had any reason for those insinuations, which your letter of the 13th contains; and on examining our own letters in particular, we feel the consolation, that there is not a single sentiment or expression in any one of them, in the least inconsistent with that kindness and humanity, which the citizens of Philadelphia and its districts were desirous to shew to the suffering inhabitants of Baltimore, on the present occasion.

With sincere wishes, that our communications may not have a tendency to interrupt the harmony and friendship that every good

citizen ought to cherish between Philadelphia and Baltimore—we remain, your friends,

*In behalf of the committee of Correspondence,*

SAMUEL COATES, Chairman.

P. S. Our remittance inclosed is a draft of Jonathan Smith, cashier of the Bank of Pennsylvania, on the Bank of Baltimore, for two thousand one hundred dollars, payable at sight.—Of this two thousand is the gift of our citizens, and one hundred is a donation from Wignell and Reinagle, managers of the new theatre, who requested the committee to send it to you, by whose order I include it in the bill.

---

PHILADELPHIA, December 6.

AT a meeting of the contributors to the fund collected for the relief of the poor of Baltimore, Norfolk and Providence, during the late fever, held at the state house in Philadelphia, 12th mo. 4th, 1800.

*John Miller, jun.* was appointed chairman, and *George Williams*, secretary.

A report from the committee of correspondence, appointed at a meeting of the citizens held 9th mo. 16th last, was read.

Whereupon, resolved unanimously, that this meeting do approve of the conduct of said committee of correspondence, in the transacting of the business entrusted to them; also that an abstract of their treasurer's accounts be published, for the information of such contributors as are not present.

On motion, resolved, That one thousand and fifty dollars and forty six cents of the ballance remaining in the hands of the treasurer of the committee of correspondence, be paid to the treasurer of the Magdalen society, for the use of said society.

That five hundred dollars of said money, be paid to the treasurer of the female association lately established in this city, for the relief of sick and indigent women and children of this city and liberties for the use of said association.

And also that the remaining sum of five hundred dollars of said money, be paid to the treasurer of the female society, formerly established for the relief of the sick and poor of this city and liberties.

JOHN MILLER, *jun.* chairman.

Attest;

GEORGE WILLIAMS, *sec'y.*



The Contributors of the City of Philadelphia, and its districts, to the fund raised for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of Baltimore, Norfolk and Providence, in account with JOHN INSKEEP, Treasurer.

Dr.	Dols. cts.
1800 To cash paid Sam. Coates, to remit to Providence	2000 0
Oct. 7, To draft to Joseph Townsend, sec'y to Board Health, Baltimore	3000 0
13, To cash paid to Samuel Coates, to remit to Norfolk	2000 0
22, To draft to J. Townshend, sec'y to Baltimore	2100 0
To cash to Robert Ralston, he paid for printing	2 62
To counterfeit silver received by treasurer	4 0
To paid postage	1 38
Balance in the Treasurer's hands.	2050 46
	<hr/>
	11158 46

Errors Excepted,  
Philadelphia, Nov. 29th.

Cr.	Dols. cts.
By cash received of the collectors, viz.	
From the city of Philadelphia	7657 82
From the Northern Liberties	678 7
From Southwark	638 50
From Moyamensing	82 7
From William Goodman	2 0
	<hr/>
	9058 46
From the Managers of the New Theatre	100 0
	<hr/>
	9158 46
1800	2000 0
Nov. 29, By draft remitted to Norfolk, returned	
	<hr/>
	11158 46

Examined and settled by

SAMUEL COATES,  
Committee, Nov. 29, 1800.



## NORFOLK CORRESPONDENCE.

## NORFOLK BOROUGH.

*At a Hustling's court, held the 28th day of October, 1800.*

The recorder having laid before the court, two letters from Samuel Coates, esquire, chairman of the committee of correspondence (with Baltimore, Norfolk and Providence) of Philadelphia, offering relief to the poor in this borough: which letters, with the answers thereto, are in these words:

*Philadelphia, 19th Sept. 1800.*

To SETH FOSTER, mayor of Norfolk.

"The citizens of Philadelphia and its dependencies, but lately relieved from the most afflicting disease which was ever permitted to scourge its inhabitants, cannot forget, that in the time of their distress, the hearts of their countrymen, in different parts of the United States, were opened to assist them.

"Under these impressions, and feeling for your present situation, they have appointed committees to collect a sum of money to relieve the suffering citizens of Norfolk, Baltimore and Providence.

"We cannot anticipate at present the amount of our collection, but we hope in a very short time to ascertain it, when we shall not fail to address you again.

"In the mean time, as the money is to be apportioned according to our opinion of your respective situations, we take the liberty to request, that you will furnish us immediately with the present circumstances of the sufferings of the poor of Norfolk: and that you will also inform us, whether it will be most acceptable, that we remit you in money, cloathing or provisions, as we can do either agreeable to your directions.

"We are, with sincere wishes for the speedy restoration of health to your city,

Your real friends,

*(In behalf of the committee of Correspondence.)*

(Copy)

SAMUEL COATES.

Being informed the Mayor is in the country, we enclose thee a copy of our letter as above.

*To the Recorder of Norfolk, Virginia.*

*Norfolk, October 10, 1800.*

MR. SAM. COATES

SIR

"On receipt of your obliging favour of 19th ult. to the Recorder of this borough, communicating to its inhabitants the ve-

ry friendly intention of those of Philadelphia, a meeting of the aldermen and common council was held, when the following resolution was adopted:

"*Resolved*, That a committee in behalf of the corporation be appointed, to inform the inhabitants of Philadelphia, that we are truly thankful for, and sensible of the kindness of their offer; but are not at present under the pressure of any necessity, that should induce us to make use of it. The said committee, are also directed, to inform the inhabitants of Philadelphia, of the late and present situation of this borough—of the number of deaths, that, to the best of their knowledge, has taken place, and the description of persons that died; as also, of any other circumstances, the committee may think proper to communicate."

"It is, sir, with sensations as grateful as they are new, that the committee assumes the pleasing task, of tendering to the generous and humane inhabitants of your city, the effusions of feeling, and the heartfelt gratitude of a large and a lately suffering community—of sending to them the strongest sentiments of esteem, and the highest offerings of thanking them for their friendly tenders of relief, and their animated interposition in favor of the distressed, the needy, and the poor. Assure them, sir, that nothing, but the previous interference of that God, who alone *"can stay the pestilence and direct its course,"* prevents us, from accepting with cheerfulness and thanks, all the offerings of their liberality. We are, perhaps, excited to an uncommon warmth of feeling and expression, on the occasion, as the offer of relief, from the citizens of Philadelphia, is the only one we have received—it stands alone!—a single, solitary arm of humanity, extended *"when the time of our calamity came upon us."* But, we have to thank the same Being, who chastised us, for having been enabled by our *own* exertions, to afford every possible relief, to the friendless, the stranger, and the poor—as the ordinary funds of the corporation have proved fully sufficient, to extend to them, every comfort and alleviation of misery, human aid could supply. The evil itself has not spread so far, ravaged so fatally, or raged so wildly, as is generally supposed—in all its progress, it appears to have been guided by some discriminating hand, and selected its victims among strangers, foreigners, and from the shipping: the greatest number of the deaths have happened among the *last*; and we have to lament the departure of very few natives or residents.

"This disorder began to rage on the 15th July, and continued until the 1st of this month in which time about 220, and not exceeding 230 adults, including those that have died with other diseases, have been interred.

"During the whole progress of the disorder, the town was well supplied with provisions by the market people; and the present

situation of this borough is as healthy as it was ever known to be.

"Having thus far complied with the directions of our fellow-citizens, we repeat our sincere acknowledgments and unfeigned thanks to the inhabitants of Philadelphia, for their offers of service; although, for the above reasons, we decline accepting them. We congratulate them on their happy deliverance from the "Ill they dreaded."—We pray for the welfare, health and prosperity of the first city in the union: and fervently hoping, that the all-seeing eye of Providence, which marks the emanations of charity and benevolence, as well as the *chilling damps* of NEGLECT, will not teach other towns to commiserate and relieve the sufferings of their neighbors, by such *severe* chastisements, as Philadelphia and Norfolk have experienced. We are,

Respectfully, sir,  
Your obedient, humble servants,

THOS. NEWTON,	}	<i>The Committee.</i>
ROB. TAYLOR,		
THOS. BLANCHARD,		

Philadelphia, 15th October, 1800.

To SETH FOSTER, *Mayor of Norfolk.*

"Our last to thee was the 19th of September, a copy of which we sent to your Recorder, on being informed of thy removal to Hampton: to that letter we have received no answer; and supposing thy absence from home to be the reason of it, and that before this time thou mayest be returned, this committee think it proper to send a remittance without waiting any longer. In pursuance of their resolution, I therefore enclose thee, for the benefit of the poor who have suffered by the late sickness among you, a draft of George Simpson, for two thousand dollars on the cashier of the office of discount and deposit in Norfolk.

"I am, in behalf of the committee,

"Thy assured friend,

"SAMUEL COATES,

*Chairman of the committee of correspondence with  
Baltimore, Norfolk, and Providence."*

Mr. SAMUEL COATES, Philadelphia.

"Sir,

"Your favor, enclosing two thousand dollars for the relief of the poor of this place, was duly received by Thomas Newton the recorder, Mr. Foster, the mayor, being absent. For the reasons mentioned in our letter of the 10th inst. we now return the draft, assuring you, and the good citizens of Philadelphia, that we enter-

tain the most grateful sense of their liberality, which we should have accepted had there been an occasion for it.

"We are, with the greatest respect and friendship,

"Your obedient servants,

THOMAS NEWTON,  
ROBERT TAYLOR,  
THOS: BLANCHARD."

ORDERED, That they be recorded, in testimony of our gratitude for their friendly interest, in the time of distress, and as a memorial to future inhabitants of this place, of the charitable disposition of the citizens of Philadelphia towards us. And the committee appointed at a former meeting, are requested to return the 2000 dollars remitted by Mr. Samuel Coates, accompanying the same with the thanks of this court, for their friendly disposition in our behalf, in time of distress.

Teste,

WM. SHARP, C. N. B. C.

*Baltimore, January 9th, 1801.*

In consequence of an insertion in the papers of this city, several gentlemen attended this day at Mr. Evans's for the purpose of endeavoring to institute a

### GENERAL DISPENSARY.

The Right Reverend Dr. Carroll was requested to take the chair, and the reverend Mr. Bend to act as clerk to the meeting.

The following rules, after mature deliberation, were agreed upon, as the basis of the proposed institution and for the government thereof.

### RULES OF THE BALTIMORE DISPENSARY,

*For the Medical Relief of the Poor.*

1. Every person who shall pay annually the sum of five dollars, into the hands of the treasurer, shall be entitled to the privilege of having two patients at one time, under the care of the Dispensary. Those who shall pay annually ten dollars, shall have four, and so on in proportion. And the payment of fifty dollars at once, shall entitle the contributor and his lawful representative to the privilege of having always two patients upon the Dispensary.

2. A board consisting of twelve managers shall annually be elected on the second Friday in January, by a majority of the attending contributors; six managers shall constitute a quorum. Their business shall be to provide medicines for the sick, and to regulate all affairs relative to the institution.



3. Eight attending and four consulting physicians, an apothecary, and a treasurer of the dispensary shall be annually elected by the managers.

4. The attending physicians shall be divided into classes of two each, and they shall attend in rotation at the Dispensary; one class every day in the week, Sunday excepted, at such hour as may be agreed upon by a majority of the whole number, and publicly notified, for the purpose of assisting such patients as may be able to meet them there: and such as are unable to go abroad, shall be regularly visited at their respective places of abode.

5. Every case shall be duly attended, whether acute, chronic, surgical or obstetrical. The mitigation of the evils and danger of the small-pox by inoculation shall likewise be an object of this institution. It shall be the duty of the consulting physicians, when applied to by the attending physicians in difficult and extraordinary cases, to afford them their advice and assistance.

6. Every person requiring the aid of the institution, shall be recommended by a contributor, in a note addressed to the physician of the district in which the patient may reside. Printed notes of recommendation, with rules directing the use of them, shall be kept at the Dispensary for the accommodation of the contributors.

7. The apothecary shall reside at the Dispensary. His business shall be to compound and deliver medicines and to keep an exact account of the names, places of abode, diseases and times of admission, and discharge of the patients; for which he shall receive such salary as he and the managers may agree upon. The attending physicians shall keep histories of the cases which may come under their care, which shall be deposited in the Dispensary with the apothecary.

The gentlemen present having subscribed the foregoing rules.

*Resolved*, That they be presented to the citizens for their subscription, and that Messrs Ebenezer Finlay, William Winchester, John Stump, Elisha Tyson, William Levesay, Emanuel Kent, Jesse Hollingsworth, Peter Hoffman, William Wilson, Isaac Burneston, Thomas Dixon, John M'Kim, Thomas M'Eldery, David Brown, Hezekiah Waters, and Job Smith, (Fell's Point,) be a committee for the purpose. \*

---

\* Messrs. Hollingsworth, Dixon, Hoffman and M'Kim, though very well disposed to promote the Dispensary and promises to give their support having declined to serve, Mr. Job Smith, (Bank-street) Mr. William Jolly, Mr. William Slater and Mr. Peter Hoffman, jun. have agreed to act in their stead; and in addition to the gentlemen nominated for the eight district, the number having been deemed insufficient, Mr. Joseph Bays and Mr. William S. Moore, have been requested to serve.



=

*Resolved*, That Dr. Crawford, Dr. James Smith, Dr. Archer, and the Rev. Messrs. Ireland and Bend, be a committee to determine the best mode of circulating subscription papers, and to inform the gentlemen above named of their appointment; and that should any of them decline serving, the committee appoint others in their stead.

*Resolved*, That the first choice of managers be postponed till after subscription papers shall have been circulated; and that when the above committee of arrangement may think it expedient, they call together the subscribers to the institution, for the purpose of making such choice.

Published by order of the meeting,  
JOSEPH G. J. BEND, Clerk.

---

BALTIMORE, Feb. 6th 1801.

At a meeting of the subscribers to the Baltimore general dispensary, held at Mr. Evans's tavern this evening, convened by public advertisement for the purpose of electing twelve managers;—The rev. Mr. Bend was called to the chair, and Dr. John Crawford, was appointed clerk.—The meeting proceeded to elect the managers by ballot, when it appeared that the following gentlemen having the greatest number of votes, were duly elected, viz.

Mr. RICHARD LAWSON,  
— ELISHA TYSON,  
— JESSE TYSON,  
— EMANUEL KENT,  
— ROBERT M'KIM,  
— WILLIAM MAC CREERY,  
— WM. P. MATTHEWS,  
— JOHN STRICKER,  
— JOB SMITH,  
— EBENEZER FINLAY,  
— WILLIAM S. MOORE,  
— JOSHUA INLOES.

---

BALTIMORE,

IN consequence of a public Notice given in the News papers of this City, a general meeting of the Faculty was held on Monday the 26th January in the Council Room—when Dr. Coulter was requested to take the chair, and Dr. Davidge to act as secretary.

A report was read from a committee appointed by a former meet;

ing of the "Principal Physicians" of the city—which being disapproved of; it was agreed that Doctors Crawford, Moores, Alexander, Archer, Potter, Blake and Allender, be a committee to draft a report and submit the same to a subsequent general meeting of the Faculty to be convened by them as soon as possible.

This general meeting of the faculty of this city and precincts, was held at Mr. William Evans' on Tuesday evening, February 10th, 1801, when it was agreed, that the following Report be presented to the Mayor, to be laid before the City Council.

—

To JAMES CALHOUN, Esqr.  
*Mayor of the City of Baltimore.*

SIR,

IN compliance with your request the medical faculty of the City of Baltimore, have taken into consideration the subject of the late epidemic, and herewith transmit to you the result of their investigation of its origin, together with their sentiments respecting the most probable means of obviating the recurrence of a similar calamity.

After the most scrutinizing investigation, the faculty have found no proofs or even cause of suspicion, that the fever which lately so unhappily afflicted our city was derived foreign causes. The following considerations they are persuaded will tend to elucidate this opinion :—

1<sup>st</sup>. The prevalence of an *epidemic constitution* of the air, which altho' not yet demonstrated by chemical analysis, is sufficiently apparent from the following effects.

A. It appears from the united testimony of the faculty of medicine throughout the United States of America, that the diseases of our country have of late years manifested a more malignant character. Those places formerly subject to mild intermitting and remitting fevers, have lately been visited by diseases of a more inflammatory description. In Frederick and Washington counties a fever of a very malignant type has prevailed for two or three years very different from diseases hitherto known in the western part of this state.

B. The morbid disposition of our atmosphere has been farther evinced by its deleterious influence on certain brute animals in various parts of the United States. It has effected herds of horned cattle, dogs, cats, and poultry—now the general history of epidemics prove that this affection of certain brute animals either preceeds or accompanies their prevalence.

C. The existence of such a state of the atmosphere discovers itself to our senses by the various sensations which are produced during the prevalence of the fever even by those not confined with it.

D. The history of all countries proves that great epidemics have visited them at some periods, and it would be extraordinary indeed that North America should be the only country on the globe exempt from their invasion.

2. That the late epidemic fever was derived from domestic causes, we think the following facts and circumstances will sufficiently demonstrate.

E. The first persons who sickened had no communication with vessels engaged in foreign commerce, but were exposed to powerful local causes, and were attacked at such distances from each other as to preclude the possibility of any one of them having derived it from the other. The case of John Harris visited by Dr. Roland, near Jalland's gardens, (Fell's Point,) on the 2d May. Thomas Sherwood, visited by Dr. Potter on the 2d of May. Those two cases occurred immediately succeeding the remarkable warm weather, during the last week of April. Capt. Conner on the 8th June. Mrs. Davis on the 9th. John Mills on the 13th, Capt. Derochbrome's apprentice boy on the 22d. Capt. Stewart's niece on the 24th.—Basil Gales's sister on the 24th, and several others all visited by Dr. Coulter previous to the 1st July. James White visited by Dr. Alexander on the 10th June. Mrs. Wilson visited by Dr. Dunkel, on the 21st of June, Josiah Thomas (Jones's street, Old Town) visited by Dr. Archer on the 28th June. Thomas Ing near the corner of Gay and Frederick streets, visited by Dr. Archer on the 3d of July. Thomas Sorin about fifty yards from Josiah Thomas's, visited by Dr. Archer on the 25th July. The cases attended by Dr. Coulter were at Fell's Point, where they had been exposed to powerful local causes emanating from the cove hereafter to be described, and to other sources of pestilential exhalation. Thomas Sherwood had worked near a putrid sink of water containing vegetable matters in a state of putrefaction, and the offensive condition of Josiah Thomas's yard, and of the gutters and streets near his house are well known to have annoyed all who passed them. We have in vain endeavored to trace any one of these cases to vessels engaged in foreign commerce—none of them had communication with any known vehicle of human contagion. These cases and some others occurred before the fever became general, and did not communicate to any person. If it had been derived from human contagion, why did they not communicate it in the same manner as it had been communicated to them? It is no inconsiderable argument in favour of our opinion to remark that a similar disease has visited many of the interior parts of the United States, remote from all communication with the Atlantic, but where the local causes were too evident to escape the notice of the most superficial observer. Not to enumerate many of the places where a disease has been marked with all the characteristic symptoms of the yellow fever, and with the same mortality as in the city of Baltimore, we would ask, if the disease were imported how it

could have reached Gallipolis on the Ohio, Missin county in Pennsylvania, or the Genessee Lakes in the state of New York? To suppose that the fever which has ravaged these new settlements, at such a distance from the Atlantic, could be derived from the West Indies, would be too unphilosophical to merit attention.

4. The general extinction of the disease by frost proves that the cause exists in the atmosphere; for fevers arising from human contagion, are admitted to be more contagious in cold weather.

5. Is it not very extraordinary that we should be supposed to receive a disease by imported contagion, which is only occasional in the country whence it is alleged to be derived, and is there scarcely thought contagious?

6. We are moreover confirmed in our opinion of the indigenous origin of the late epidemic fever, by having learned that a similar disease prevailed at the same time in many other parts of this state—viz. In Hartford county, on the banks of the Susquehannah, on the canal in Cæcil county, in Charles county, in Dorchester county, and in some other places.

7. The reasons in our opinion, why this disease has been so long and so erroneously ascribed to imported human contagion is the circumstance of its having so often originated on ship-board, from foul air generated by improper ballast, or other substances in a state of putrefaction. Indeed the confined situation of the holds of vessels is, of all circumstances the most likely to be productive of noxious effluvia. The history of the yellow fever which originated on board the United States frigate, General Greene, affords a melancholy illustration of this opinion. The narrative given by Dr. Kollock, states that this ship sailed on her first cruise, from Rhode island, & that the yellow fever appeared on the 15th day from the time she left Newport, and is ascribed by him to her having sprung a leak and thereby affected her ballast, which was composed of iron, slate, stone, and shells, intermixed with marine vegetables. The doctor further states, that after she returned to Port, the fever was in no instance communicated although the intercourse between the sick and well was constant and inevitable.

The faculty would here be understood to draw a distinction between an imported disease and the imported cause of diseases, &c. While they are convinced, that this fever cannot with truth be attributed to imported human contagion, they are equally well assured, that the cause may be imported, and that the foul air in the holds of vessels is a pregnant source of mischief, and may co-operate with the like cause on shore, in the production of diseases. We are nevertheless confident that if the air of our city were rendered as pure as it might be, by the removal of nuisances on shore, that the causes on ship-board would scarcely be worth estimating as an object of terror, as it must soon be so widely diffused in a pure surrounding atmosphere as not to produce any permanent effects.



8. The gradual manner in which the disease becomes epidemic is an additional proof that it is not derived from foreign sources. The first effects produced by the causes, while they are feeble such as slight pains in the head, stomach, and liver, and other mild grades of the disease, are the certain harbingers of a more malignant state of fever, when the same causes acquire more force. If this disease was imported, the more prominent features would develop themselves at first, and these precursors and more mild grades of the disease could not effect thousands on shore, who never had any connection with vessels from the West Indies or any diseased body.

It has been suggested that this fever might have been imported in the United States frigate *L'insurgente*. This suggestion we are satisfied is destitute of foundation. The *Insurgente* arrived at this port on the 24th March, with an healthy crew, who continued equally free from disease after her arrival, which precludes the possibility of personal contagion from this source. That the ballast of this ship was not the cause of this fever is demonstrated from the following facts. The neighbourhood of the wharf at which she was moored was the most healthy at Fell's Point, and the first cases of fever occurred at the other extremity of that place. Of nearly two hundred persons who were constantly employed on board in repairing this ship, not one was among the first persons attacked by the fever. The rumour that Mrs. Wilson contracted her death from exposure to the ballast of the *Insurgente* is equally invalid. Her illness is more rationally explained by her having paid a visit on the margin of the pestilential cove immediately preceding her attack. Hence most of the first cases at Fell's Point may be traced; and hence we date their first indisposition.

9. But what in our minds places this question beyond the reach of controversy, is the fact, that this fever is never contagious early in summer, & rarely so at any season in a pure atmosphere remote from the exhalation of stagnant water or putrifying animal or vegetable substances. If this fatal disease were derived from imported contagion, each preceding case should be as capable of multiplying itself as that where it first originated on ship-board. Since thence it is evident that this disease is not communicable beyond the sphere of noxious exhalation. The advocates for imported contagion will agree with the favourers of domestic origin in recommending energetic measures of prevention on shore, however materially they may differ on the controverted question of origin.

The faculty believe the following to have been the principal sources of the late malignant fever.

1st. The Cove which extends from the mouth of Jones' Falls to the interior parts of Fell's Point, the bottom of which was left bare by the recels of the tide for some weeks, immediately preceding the epidemic appearance of the fever. This was occasioned by the prevalence of the North and East winds which continued for a great



part of the Summer, as may be perceived from a Register of the weather during the summer. Such is the situation of this pestilential Cove that all the filth conveyed into it by the West, North West and South winds, must remain to stagnate and putrefy under a Summer's sun. There could be no egress by any but a North East wind and this cannot act, for the Point is a barrier which effectually obstructs the wind from that quarter. From the united testimony of the Physicians at Fell's Point, the disease began on the borders of this mortal Cove, and its progress could be traced through the streets in whatsoever direction the winds wafted its poisonous effluvia. Such was the pestilential condition of this sink of putrefaction, that the labourers employed in filling up its Northern shore were compelled to relinquish their undertaking early in Summer. So offensive was the effluvia emanating from this source of death that it affected those who had occasion to pass it when at a considerable distance.

2d. The Docks in general, but more especially the interstices between the wharves where the water stagnated and afforded a proper matrix for the generation of pestilential effluvia.

3d. The stagnant water retained in cellars.

4th. The gutters.—The noxious exhalations from this source so near the doors of our houses is too obvious to require a comment,

5th. Certain filths, alleys, and unpaved streets.

6th. Unclean back yards.

7th. Certain privies.

8th. The *Ponds* and low *Grounds* in the city and its vicinity.—

9th. The made ground of which the wharves and the lower parts of some of the streets are formed, and from all substances animal and vegetable, subject to putrefaction. From these sources we derive the first cause of the late fever, and from these fomented by a Summer's sun, we believe the fever to have become afterwards epidemic. We are more strongly impelled to ascribe our late malignant fever to these causes from having ascertained that it did not exist in the higher parts of the city remote from exhalation, unless it had been carried there from the Point or from the lower parts of the city. The following fact is of itself sufficient to point out the sources of our late awful calamity. The superintendant of the streets who enumerated the nuisances previous to the epidemic appearance of the fever, declares that in whatsoever part of the city he then marked a nuisance, he can now mark the ravages of death.

If we are correct in our opinion respecting the origin of this disease the means of prevention may be deduced from a consideration of the sources already enumerated.

1st. The Cove already described should be so far filled up as to prevent the mud and the perishable materials which it may contain from being left bare by the ebbing of the tide and becoming thereby exposed to the influence of the sun.

2d. The docks should be kept in such a state as not to permit their bottoms to be exposed to the action of the sun after the recess of the tides. The interstices between the wharves should be filled up.

3d. The cellars which contain water at any season should be filled up with pure earth or gravel unmixed with any substance liable to putrefaction. These places should be filled up if possible, before warm weather.

4th. The gutters should be cleaned daily from the first of March to the first of November, and where bricks were omitted in the late mode of paving them, they should be repaved.

5th. The streets and alleys where water is liable to stagnate more especially near the wharves, should be paved as soon as possible, and where the finances of the city will not admit of this being done, they should be filled up in the manner already directed for the cellars.

6th. The *back yards* should be frequently inspected by the proper officers, and the occupiers of houses compelled under a penalty, to preserve them in a pure state. No *Reservoir* of water should be permitted to retain it more than twenty four hours from the first of May to the first of November.

7th. All privies without vaults, should be frequently cleaned, and those constructed with vaults, should have *lime* thrown into them once a week during the warm season. The faculty are of opinion, that it would induce to the health of the citizens to abolish vaults in the construction of privies.

8th. All ponds and low grounds in the city or its vicinity, should be drained or filled up.

9th. The low grounds should not in future be filled up with substances subject to putrefaction. The mode of constructing wharves of perishable materials, and the *mud* from the bottom of the basin, should be prohibited in the future improvement of the city.

10th. We cannot here refrain from urging the necessity of introducing a copious supply of pure water into the city with all possible expedition. The salutary effect to be derived from this measure will result from what has already been said on the cause of disease and the means of prevention.

11th. The faculty conceive the *Health Law* under its present circumstances defective in the following particular—As it cannot be enforced with justice to the merchant, for want of a place of deposit for such goods as it may be deemed by the physician of the port necessary to unlade.

The articles which it will be most necessary to land at a distance from the city, are generally of such a damageable quality, that they cannot be exposed to the weather without risque, and must therefore be brought up to the city to the extreme danger of the inhabitants, or landed at the hazard of the owners, without this indispensable precaution, of forcing vessels of damaged cargoes at a distance from the city, they will be more capable of emitting foul air (the cause of

disease) after riding quarantine twenty days, than they were at the arrival, as the longer such articles are retained in a state of putrefaction, the more dangerous they must become. Moreover should cargoes be damaged at their arrival, the necessity of unloading immediately is evident, being the only means of saving the part not already damaged. We conceive that every vessel arriving from abroad, with cargoes subject to putrefaction should be compelled to ventilate their holds subject to the direction of the physician of the port previous to being permitted to come up to the city.

12th. We cannot conclude this subject without intimating the propriety of appointing two or more Physicians members of the Board of Health, as their professional knowledge must be indispensable in directing the measures of that body.

Thus, Sir, have the faculty of medicine united their endeavours to fulfill the object of your laudable enquiries, and while they lament the necessity which has compelled the measure, they are unanimous in the opinion, that our forlorn hope consists in uniting all the energies of our minds in averting from our city a scourge which has marked a memorable, tho' melancholy era in the history of our country.

By Order of the Faculty,

JOHN CRAWFORD, chair-man.  
NATHANIEL POTTER, sec'ry.

The above is a true copy from the original presented to the First Branch of the City Council.

THOS. KELL, clerk.





